

East Spitsbergen - Summer Solstice

Discover the highest peaks, largest seabird colonies, and best places to spot polar bears along the eastern shores of Spitsbergen



Title:	East Spitsbergen - Summer Solstice
Dates:	21 Jun - 28 Jun, 2023
Tripcode:	HDS05-23
Duration:	7 nights
Ship:	m/v Hondius
Embarkation:	Longyearbyen
Disembarkation:	Longyearbyen
Language:	English speaking voyage

ITINERARY

PLEASE NOTE:

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per AECO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with AECO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed of our vessel is 10.5 knots.

Experience the high Arctic summer solstice with an expedition that visits some of the top sites of eastern Spitsbergen. Our goal is to take you to amazing glaciers, fascinating historical sites, bountiful seabird colonies, and sprawling fjord systems in which there is a good chance of spotting whales, seals, and possibly even polar bears.

2023 summer solstice: midnight sun, and 24-hour day

The midnight sun is a phenomenon that occurs during the Arctic summer, when the sun is visible for a full 24 hours in fair weather. The 2023 summer solstice in Longyearbyen falls on Tuesday, 21 June, at 16:57 pm. The term solstice (Latin solstitium) means "sun-stopping" and describes the point on the horizon at which the sun appears to rise and set, stopping and reversing directions after this day. On the solstice, the sun does not rise precisely in the east but rather north of east, then later sets to the north of west, making the sun visible for a longer period of time. It will not be until late August that the sun fully goes down again, and then only for a few minutes. Join us in experiencing this fascinating phenomenon during this voyage through the Arctic wilderness of Svalbard.

Day 1: Largest town, biggest island

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions.

Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. In the early evening the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where you might spot the first minke whale of your voyage.

Day 2: Spectacular Hornsund

We start the day by quietly cruising the side fjords of the spectacular Hornsund area in southern Spitsbergen,

enjoying the scenery of towering mountain peaks. The mountain of Hornsundtind rises to 1,431 meters (4,695 feet), while the peak of Bautaen testifies to why early Dutch explorers gave this island the name Spitsbergen, meaning “pointed mountains.”

There are 14 magnificent glaciers in the area, and we have a fair chance of encountering seals and polar bears. The nearby cliffs of Sofiakammen are also home to thousands of pairs of nesting kittiwakes and little auks, and in the evening, we might see thousands of harp seals rutting on ice floes at Sørkapp.

Day 3: Long excursion at Diskobukta

After navigating the drift ice of Storfjorden, where we sometimes see harp seals, we land in northwest Edgeøya at the northern bank of Rosenberdalriver. Here on the raised beach, we have the opportunity of walking to Rosenbergdalen, which is teeming with grazing reindeer.

Afterward we plan to walk by a cliff with nesting black guillemots on our way to Strethamna, where we often find a herd of walrus on the beach near an octagonal trapper’s cabin built in 1905.

We can also see the remains of a 19th-century Pomor house as well as the bones of walrus hunted in previous centuries.

Day 4: Trapper’s history in Freemansundet

Sailing into the waterway of Freemansundet, we plan to land at the tundra lowland of Sundneset, on the island of Barentsøya.

Here we will visit the hut of a German scientific expedition (Würzbugerhütte) from sixty years ago, then take a brisk walk across the tundra in search of Spitsbergen reindeer and barnacle geese. After that, we plan to go on a Zodiac cruise near Freeman Glacier and visit a kittiwake colony in a canyon close by.

In case of heavy ice in Freemansundet, however, we will instead sail to Negribreen, one of the most extensive glacier fronts on the east side of Spitsbergen. Here we can take a Zodiac cruise and land on Walrus Island, which became ice-free at the end of last century.

Day 5: Ivory gulls in Agardhfjellet

Today we sail to the east side of west Spitsbergen (west side of Storfjorden).

Here we plan to walk to breeding places for ivory gulls in Agardhfjellet, which stands about 300 meters (980 feet) high.

The valley leading to the outcrops that house the nests is littered with fossils of belemnites and ammonites.

Day 6: South Spitsbergen

Today we aim to land at the mountain of Stellingfjellet, near the largest colony of Brünnich’s guillemots in Spitsbergen. Later in the day, we will make landings at the rarely visited coast of south Spitsbergen, at the bay of Isbukta.

Day 7: Bell Sund’s flora, fauna, and haunting history

We continue our voyage in Bell Sund, one of the largest fjord systems in Svalbard. The ocean currents make this area slightly warmer than other areas in the archipelago, which shows in the relatively lush vegetation.

Here there are excellent opportunities to enjoy both history and wildlife.

A possibility is Ahlstrandhalvøya, at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden, where piles of beluga skeletons can be found. These remains of 19th-century whale slaughter are a haunting reminder of the consequences of rampant exploitation. Fortunately, belugas were not hunted into extinction, and you have a good chance of coming across a

pod.

Alternately, while cruising the side fjords of Bellsund, we can explore tundra where reindeer like to feed as well as rock slopes where little auks are breeding.

Day 8: There and back again

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. You disembark in Longyearbyen, taking home memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN



Swarovski Binoculars

FREE

Terms of this limited-time offer

- For new bookings on select cruises only
- Cannot be combined with other offers, past or future
- Guests receive voucher at booking to use for collecting binoculars on board
- One pair of binoculars per newly booked guest
- Each guest free to choose between the option of a cash discount or binoculars
- Offer continues only while supply lasts

CABINS & PRICES



Quadruple Porthole

2 portholes
 2 upper & lower berths
 Small sofa
 Private shower & toilet
 Flatscreen TV
 Desk & chair
 Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
 Hair dryer
 Cabinet
 Safe deposit box
 Wardrobe
 This cabin is suitable for families traveling with children, or passengers who do not require a twin or more luxurious cabin



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

16000 USD



Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

4000 USD



Triple Porthole

2 portholes
 1 upper berth & 2 lower berths
 Small sofa
 Private shower & toilet
 Flatscreen TV
 Desk & chair
 Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
 Hair dryer
 Cabinet
 Safe deposit box
 Wardrobe
 This cabin is suitable for families traveling with children, or passengers who do not require a twin or more luxurious cabin



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

15000 USD



Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

5000 USD



Twin Porthole

2 portholes
 2 single beds
 Small sofa
 Private shower & toilet
 Flatscreen TV
 Desk & chair
 Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
 Hair dryer
 Cabinet
 Safe deposit box
 Wardrobe



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

11200 USD



Single cabin

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

9520 USD



Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

5600 USD



Twin Window

1 window
 2 single beds
 Small sofa
 Private shower & toilet
 Flatscreen TV
 Desk & chair
 Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
 Hair dryer
 Cabinet
 Safe deposit box
 Wardrobe
 Please be aware that the view from some windows might be partially obstructed due to the design requirements of the ship



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

12100 USD



Single cabin

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

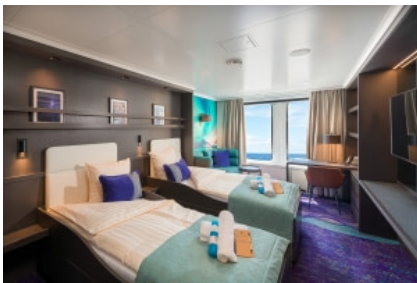
10285 USD



Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

6050 USD



Twin Deluxe

- 2 windows
- 2 single beds
- Sofa
- Private shower & toilet
- Flatscreen TV
- Desk & chair
- Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
- Refrigerator
- Coffee & tea maker
- Bathrobe
- Hair dryer
- Cabinet
- Safe deposit box
- Wardrobe



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

12800 USD



Single cabin

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

10880 USD



Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

6400 USD



Superior

- 2 windows
- 1 double bed
- Sofa
- Private shower & toilet
- Flatscreen TV
- Desk & chair
- Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
- Refrigerator
- Coffee & tea maker
- Bathrobe
- Hair dryer
- Cabinet
- Safe deposit box
- Wardrobe



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

14600 USD



Single cabin

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

12410 USD



Junior Suite

- 1 double window
- 1 double bed
- Private shower & toilet
- Flatscreen TV
- Desk & chair
- Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
- Refrigerator
- Coffee & tea maker
- Bathrobe
- Hair dryer
- Cabinet
- Safe deposit box
- Wardrobe



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

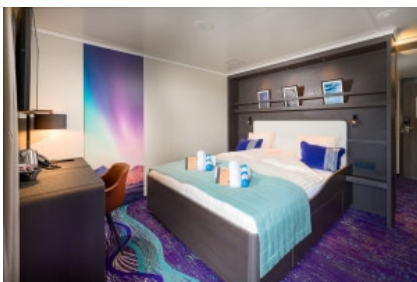
15500 USD



Single cabin

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

13175 USD



Grand Suite with private balcony

- 1 double window
- 1 double bed
- Sofa
- Private balcony
- Private shower & toilet
- Flatscreen TV
- Desk & chair
- Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
- Refrigerator
- Coffee & tea maker
- Bathrobe
- Hair dryer
- Cabinet
- Safe deposit box
- Wardrobe



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

18000 USD



Single cabin

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

15300 USD

