

# North Spitsbergen - Arctic Summer - Birding

*Watch for wildlife in iconic Arctic terrain*



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| Title:          | North Spitsbergen - Arctic Summer - Birding     |
| Dates:          | 7 Jun - 17 Jun, 2021                            |
| Tripcode:       | RVR22-21  |
| Duration:       | 10 nights                                       |
| Ship:           | s/v Rembrandt van Rijn                          |
| Embarkation:    | Longyearbyen                                    |
| Disembarkation: | Longyearbyen                                    |
| Language:       | German speaking voyage, English speaking voyage |
| Important:      | This is an English and German speaking voyage   |

## ITINERARY

*PLEASE NOTE: All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. The on-board expedition leader determines the final itinerary. Itineraries may mention places that require permission to land, which must be granted by the relevant national authorities. Such permission is not granted prior to the publishing of these itineraries. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Willingness to compromise on comfort is a basic requirement on board of a historic traditional sailing vessel. Important information about the sailing program: the boat is equipped with sails and these will be used in good conditions (open sea, water depth,*

*appropriate wind conditions, time availability). This is not guaranteed. The captain decides whether to use the sails or the engine. There is no claim to one or other propulsion method. If sails are used, they are operated by the crew. Guests follow the safety instructions of the team. Average cruising speed for s/v Rembrandt van Rijn is 6.5 knots.*

The North Spitsbergen cruise sails to some of the remotest locations of northern Europe. The expedition gives you the opportunity to spot historic whaling remains, glaciers, a variety of Arctic birds including the Little Auk, and polar bears.

### 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. In the evening you sail for Trygghamna, where you see the remains of a 17th-century English whaling station and 18th-century Pomor hunting station, both of which you can visit the next morning.

### Day 2: Foxes, seabirds, and grazing reindeer

From Trygghamna you walk to Alkhornet, a large seabird cliff where the birds are scouting out breeding places. Below the cliffs is a common place to spot Arctic foxes, and you may also see reindeer grazing on the lush vegetation if there's not too much snow.

### Day 3: Remains of the whalers

You sail into Fuglefjorden amid views of Svitjodbreen and Birgerbukta, both breeding areas for great skuas as well as likely spots to see a polar bear. On Birgerbukta you can see 17th-century Basque ovens once used for cooking whale blubber. The aim next is to visit Ytre Norskøya, a small island that served for many years as a Dutch whaling lookout. Here you can still follow the whalers' tracks to the summit of the island, passing popular bird cliffs on the way. On shore are the remains of more 17th-century blubber ovens, while Arctic skuas and common eiders breed among the graves of some two hundred Dutch whalers.

### Day 4: Glaciers and Ermaktangen geology

Raudfjorden, on the north coast of Spitsbergen, is a fine place for gazing over the glaciers. It's also a favorite hangout for ringed and bearded seals, colonies of seabird, and the occasional polar bear and beluga whale. Ermaktangen, at the fjordh coast of Spitsbergen, is a fine place for gazing over the gllof the land.

### Day 5: Wide open tundra

If ice conditions permit, you may land on the northern side of Reindyrflya, the largest tundra area of Spitsbergen. This vast and rolling plain is a popular grazing area for reindeer, and several species of waders also breed here. Similarly, the lakes afford you a good chance of spotting red-throated divers and king eiders.

### Day 6: The massive Monaco Glacier

Depending on the weather, you could sail into Liefdefjorden and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of the precipitous Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this glacier are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and the base of the ice is a popular polar bear hunting ground. If ice conditions prevent sailing here early in the season, an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen can be implemented.

### Day 7: On to the little auks

In the morning you land at Fuglesangen, where you can observe spirited communities of little auks. You then sail south to Magdalenafjorden, one of the glacier-filled highlights of Spitsbergen. A shore visit shows you the remains of 17th-century English whaling, and you can also see more large colonies of little auks.

### Day 8: Earth's northernmost community

You head north for Kongsfjorden and Krossfjorden. The landscape is likely to show signs of winter, the crags and slopes still blanketed with snow. We aim to visit places of historic interest: Ny London, where you can see the remains of early 20th-century marble mining, and Ny Ålesund, the northernmost community in the world. There are also research stations and the famous anchor mast of the dirigible Norge, which took the first flight across the North Pole to Nome, Alaska in 1926. Krossfjorden offers views of colossal glaciers and lofty mountain peaks, but ultimately the extent of fjord ice dictates the itinerary here.

### Day 9: The past days of polar bear hunting

On your journey south, the goal is a landing at Fuglehuken. Here you see remains from the great era of polar bear hunting. There are also large seabird colonies and a haul-out spot for harbour seals. Alternatively you could land on the coast of Forlandsundet, at Engelsbukta or Sarstangen. Walruses are occasionally seen here, and the tundra is a fine place for a walk.

### Day 10: Wide tundra, towering mountains

The next stop is Bohemanflya, an expansive tundra with its own avifauna (depending on when spring arrives) and spectacular geological formations along the coast. In Gipsvika you can go on shore near Templet, a mountainous location of eroded sedimentary rock from the Upper Carboniferous period – around 290 million years ago.

## Day 11: 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.

### Included in this voyage

- *Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary*
- *All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.*
- *All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.*
- *Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.*
- *Free use of snowshoes.*
- *Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to and from Longyearbyen.*
- *All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.*
- *AECO fees and governmental taxes.*
- *Comprehensive pre-departure material.*

### Excluded from this voyage

*Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights*

*Pre- and post- land arrangements.*

*Passport and visa expenses.*

*Government arrival and departure taxes.*

*Meals ashore.*

*Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).*

*Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.*

*The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).*

## ACTIVITIES YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN

### Birding

FREE



We will have at least one dedicated expedition guide in our team who will share their expert knowledge about bird species and who will be available to help you identify, photograph and learn more about the birds that we see.

## CABINS & PRICES

### Triple Private Porthole



1 porthole  
1 upper/lower berth + 1 lower berth  
Private shower and toilet  
Ample storage space



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 13500 USD



Sharing berth 4500 USD  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

### Twin Private Inside



1 upper / lower berth  
Private shower and toilet  
Ample storage space



Complete cabin 9600 USD  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.



Single cabin 8160 USD  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).



Sharing berth 4800 USD  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

## Twin Private Porthole



1 porthole  
1 upper / lower berth  
Private shower and toilet  
Ample storage space



Complete cabin 11100 USD  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.



Single cabin 9435 USD  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).



Sharing berth 5550 USD  
Share your cabin with others for the best price