

# North Spitsbergen 'Basecamp'- Summer Solstice - free kayaking, snowshoe/hiking, photo workshop

*The best activity voyage in the Arctic*

Title:	North Spitsbergen 'Basecamp'- Summer Solstice - free kayaking, snowshoe/hiking, photo workshop
Dates:	17 Jun - 24 Jun, 2021
Tripcode:	OTL04-21
Duration:	7 nights
Ship:	m/v Ortelius
Embarkation:	Longyearbyen
Disembarkation:	Longyearbyen
Language:	English speaking voyage
Important:	Diving is an optional activity. Experience with cold-water diving and dry-suit dives (at least 30) is a must!

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## ITINERARY

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*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. Average cruising speed for m/v Ortelius is 10,5 knots.*

The North Spitsbergen Basecamp cruise offers you a myriad of ways to explore and enjoy this Arctic Region. This expedition allows you to hike, snowshoe, kayak, and learn to take perfect pictures of the polar flora and fauna.

### 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: Kongsfjorden and Blomstrandhalvøya

On the first day of our activity program, we will slowly ease into things. Blomstrandhalvøya is located on the northern side of the fjord, which will offer shelter and room to change plan in case the weather changes. In the afternoon, you visit Ny Ålesund, one of the northernmost settlements on Earth.

Once a mining village served by the world's most northerly railway – you can still see its tracks – Ny Ålesund is now a research center. Close to the community is a breeding ground for barnacle geese, pink-footed geese, and Arctic terns. And if you're interested in the history of Arctic exploration, visit the anchoring mast used by polar explorers Amundsen and Nobile in their airships, *Norge* (1926) and *Italia* (1928).

In the evening, we head north along the west coast and spend the night in the sheltered surroundings of Krossfjorden.

### Day 3: Exploring the North West

Next to our activities, we will next head toward Amsterdamøya, where you have the chance to hike past the remains of a 17th-century whaling station. You can also enjoy the beautiful panorama of Smeerenburgsleta. In the afternoon, we make for the islands around Fair Haven.

Ytre Norskøya is home to a small rookery of puffins, Brünnich's guillemots, and other wildlife. Nearby Fuglesangen may also offer the chance to see little auks flying overhead as they return to their nests among the rocks, and all around the island are opportunities for amazing kayaking.

### Day 4: Rugged Raudfjorden

At Raudfjorden, on the north coast of Spitsbergen, you can take in an expansive fjord spilling with glaciers – and maybe even visited by ringed and bearded seals. The cliffs and shoreline of this fjord also support thriving seabird colonies, rich vegetation, and the possibility of polar bears. Here we will find the right balance between safe activities and wildlife watching.

## Day 5: The stunning sights of Liefdefjorden

Depending on the weather, you could sail into Liefdefjorden and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of 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, we may use an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen. Near the area of Texas Bar and Hornbaekpollen, there are also some great hikes. *(On this trip only (OTL04-21), we may instead visit Worsley Neset, where we can enjoy activities among the beauty of Woodfjorden).*

## Day 6: North Spitsbergen splendors

This is our reserve day for activities around North Spitsbergen. Weather and wildlife permitting, we will choose the right location for another day of splendid outdoor adventures.

## Day 7: Forlandsundet or St. Johns Fjord

Forlandsundet, between the main island of Spitsbergen and the narrow Prins Karls Forland, is a place of great beauty and fascinating wildlife. Walrus sometimes haul out here, and seabirds can be found around Fuglehuken.

You may also see walrus populations around Sarstangen and Poolepynten. Alternatively, we might sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden, landing at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on these cliffs, Arctic foxes search below for fallen eggs and chicks, and reindeer graze the sparse vegetation. We will arrive in Longyearbyen later that night.

## Day 8: There and back again

Even the greatest journeys eventually come to an end. Today you disembark in Longyearbyen, taking home memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

### “Solstice”:

The midnight sun is a natural phenomenon that occurs during the summer months, when the sun is visible for 24 hours in fair weather. This coming solstice occurs on Monday, 21 June, 2021 at 05:32 in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen.

The term “solstice” (Latin: *solstitium*) means “sun-stopping.” This is the point on the horizon at which the sun appears to rise and set before stopping and reversing direction afterward. On the day of the solstice, the sun does not rise precisely in the east but slightly to the north of east. It then sets slightly to the north of west, meaning it is visible in the sky for a longer period of time. It will not be until late August that the sun goes down, and then only for a few minutes.

Join us in experiencing the summer solstice during this adventurous Arctic voyage, when the midnight sun reaches its highest position above the ruggedly scenic wilderness of Svalbard (Spitsbergen).

### **Background on Basecamp cruises: -**

Our Basecamp voyages focus on land and near-shore activities with minimal disturbance to local wildlife. If time and conditions permit, the expedition team will also look for wildlife opportunities whenever possible.

By definition, a basecamp is a temporary camp from which expeditions or other outdoor activities can be carried out. During our designated Basecamp cruises, the ship navigates to carefully chosen areas around North Spitsbergen, staying in fewer locations than during our regular trips so that it can serve as a comfortable hub for multiple outdoor activities.

Hikers (H) can embark on vigorous walks in the backcountry, photographers (P) can capture the dramatic surroundings in pictures, and kayakers (K) can explore waterways through which the ship cannot always sail. Passengers who do not wish to engage in these activities can enjoy Zodiac excursions and easy-to-moderate shoreline walks that focus on wildlife.

All activities are free of charge. Polar scuba diving is the only supplemented activity on these trips. See our section on polar diving in the introduction.

### **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 rubber boots and 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

### Diving

ON REQUEST



You must be advanced and experienced in dry suit and cold water diving. Diving is subject to local ice and weather conditions.

### Hiking

FREE



There will be easy, moderate and more demanding walks available in the vicinity of the landing sites. We recommend bringing a proper pair of hiking boots and gaiters. Snowshoes will be provided (for hikers only) on board. Those will fit all boot sizes and can be used in combination with Oceanwide's rubber boots.

## Kayaking

FREE



Basic kayaking experience is of advantage, but it is not a requirement. Physical fitness is essential. Kayaking is subject to weather and prevailing ice conditions.

## Photo Workshop

FREE



Participants with a special interest in photography will bring their personal photo equipment. The workshop must be pre-booked prior to departure.

## Snowshoeing

FREE



Snowshoe walking is easy and does not require any technical skills. The snowshoes will fit all boot sizes and can be used in combination with Oceanwide's rubber boots

## CABINS & PRICES

### Quadruple Porthole



2 portholes  
 2 upper / lower berths  
 Private shower & toilet  
 Desk & chair  
 Flatscreen TV  
 Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)  
 Hair dryer  
 Ample storage space



Complete cabin  
 Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

15800 USD



Sharing berth  
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

3950 USD

### Triple Porthole



2 portholes  
 1 upper / lower berth + 1 single lower berth  
 Private shower & toilet  
 Desk & chair  
 Flatscreen TV  
 Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)  
 Hair dryer  
 Ample storage space



Complete cabin  
 Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

16500 USD



Sharing berth  
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

5500 USD

## Twin Porthole



2 portholes  
2 lower berths  
Private shower & toilet  
Desk & chair  
Flatscreen TV  
Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)  
Hair dryer  
Ample storage space



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 11000 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 9350 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price 5500 USD

## Twin Window



2 windows  
2 lower berths  
Private shower & toilet  
Desk & chair  
Flatscreen TV  
Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)  
Hair dryer  
Ample storage space



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 11900 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 10115 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price 5950 USD

## Twin Deluxe



3 windows  
2 lower berths  
Private shower & toilet  
Desk & chair  
Small sofa  
Refrigerator  
Coffee & tea maker  
Flatscreen TV  
Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)  
Hair dryer  
Ample storage space



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 12600 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 10710 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price 6300 USD

## Superior



2 windows (minimum)  
1 double bed  
1 single (sofa) bed  
Private shower & toilet  
Desk & chair  
Flatscreen TV  
Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)  
Refrigerator  
Coffee & tea maker  
Hair dryer  
Ample storage space



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 14300 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 12155 USD