

# Northeast Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice – Arc of Meridian - Birding

Discover the outer edges of an Arctic archipelago



Title:	Northeast Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice – Arc of Meridian - Birding
Dates:	10 Jun - 19 Jun, 2021
Tripcode:	HDS04-21
Duration:	9 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 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 of m/v Hondius is 10,5 knots.*

From fjords to straits to the mighty Monaco Glacier, this scenic and wildlife-centered Arctic voyage explores some of the most dramatic landscapes and animal-viewing hotspots Svalbard has to offer. Between your visits to glaciers, beaches, and berg-strewn bays, you might encounter polar bears, walruses, whales, seals, foxes, and flocks of exotic seabirds.

### Workshop 1: Introductory course Astro navigation with sextant

*We offer a free workshop on navigation with sextant under the supervision of an expert on board. Everybody is welcome to participate, no previous experience required. The workshop group will be supervised on board. During cruise days, everybody will be able to listen to photo lectures and workshops in order to learn more about Astro navigation.*

*The speaker Dr.-Ing. Lothar Kurtze is Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, London. He is a volunteer project coordinator of the Faulkes Telescope Projects in Germany and Austria and is committed to astronomical education. In Weinheim (Baden-Württemberg) he runs a small private observatory and in his free time he is sometimes a guest lecturer for astronomy on expedition ships in the Arctic and Antarctic. His main job is mechanical engineering in Salzburg.*

### Workshop 2: Photography

*We offer a free photo workshop for beginners and advanced photographers under the supervision of a photo expert on board. Everybody is welcome to participate, no previous experience required. The workshop group (up to 20 participants per guide during landings, minimum of 20 for the activity while on board) will be accompanied by the photo expert during activity on shore.*

*Participants with a special interest in photography must bring their personal photo equipment. During cruise days, everybody will be able to listen to photo lectures and workshops in order to learn more about objects, exposures, and photo composition. The workshop does not intend to instruct passengers on how to use specific camera models, but is meant to give insight into better photo results by respecting the basic rules of photography. Photo workshop participants can also take part in other activities on board.*

### Arc of Meridian: -

*The Earth is flattened towards the Poles. In the 19th century astronomers were aware of it and they began to organise expeditions into the Arctic in order to measure this flattening from the northernmost lands. We will pay attention to some of their measure points in Northeast Spitsbergen on day 3 and day 7 as mentioned in the above itinerary.*

Edward Sabine had an observatory in 1823 on Indre Norskøya at Sabinehaugen. He used a Pendulum to measure gravity, and suggested measurements of meridians (lines of longitude through the poles) in Spitsbergen. Eventually, at the end of the 19th century, the Swedish–Russian Arc of Meridian Expeditions were carried out. Their measurements required a chain of triangulation points. The chain reached from Crozierpynten and Vesle Tavleøya in the north to Keilhauffjellet in the south. The measurements defined the increasing flattening of the Earth toward the Poles. Most cairns along the chain can still be seen today.

## **Birding: -**

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 on deck and learn more about the birds that we see. In addition to outdoor sessions, our guide will focus on species and related information on the birds of the Arctic in re-caps and lectures onboard.

## **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: Cruising Krossfjorden**

Heading north along the west coast, you arrive by morning in Krossfjorden. Here you might board the Zodiacs for a cruise near the towering blue–white face of the Fourteenth of July Glacier. On the green slopes near the glacier, colorful flowers bloom while flocks of kittiwakes and Brünnich’s guillemots nest on the cliffs. You have a good chance of spotting an Arctic fox scouting for fallen chicks or a bearded seal paddling through the fjord. In the afternoon you sail to Ny Ålesund, the northernmost settlement 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, Ellsworth, and Nobile in their airship, *Norge* (1926).

## **Day 3: Route to Raudfjorden**

In the morning you land at Ytre Norskøya and walk to the top of the island, where 17th-century whalers had an observation post to spot bowhead whales surrounded by puffins. Alternately (on our HDS04 voyage), you may land on Indre Norskøya at Sabine’s Observatory, where Edward Sabine (1823) studied the curvature of the Earth. Sailing to Raudfjorden on the north coast of Spitsbergen, you 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.

## **Day 4: 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 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 may be used.

## **Day 5: Into Sorgfjorden (Fjord of Sorrows)**

Sailing into Sorgfjorden, you land about one km (.6 miles) southwest of Eolusneset, not far from a walrus haul-out area. At nearby Krosshaugen you can see the graves of 17th-century whalers, and this is also a good area to spot ptarmigans. Later in the day, you continue to the opposite side of the fjord to Crozierpynten. Here you can view the remains of the Swedish Arc of Meridian Expedition, 1899 – 1900 and walk some distance across Basissletten to Basisodden, a track scientists once used for long-distance measurements.

## **Day 6: Highlights of Hinlopen**

Today you sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to bearded seals, ringed seals, and polar bears. At the entrance there is even the possibility to spot blue whales. After cruising among the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in the Zodiacs, you can view the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with their thousands of Brünnich’s guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopen Strait, you may even attempt a

landing on Nordaustlandet. Here reindeer, pink-footed geese, and walrus are likely sights. You may take an alternate route if ice prevents entry into Hinlopen.

## Day 7: Walrus haul-outs and historic remains

Pushing eastward along the north coast of Nordaustlandet, you will likely sail through Beverly Sundet, seeing tokens of historic expeditions along the shores of Chermsideöya. The northernmost point of your voyage may be on Phippsöya, featuring a walrus haul-out and ivory gull colony. An alternative (on our HDS04 trip) is Vesle Tavleöya, another site from the Arc-of-Meridian Expedition. At Rossöya we reach 80° 49' north, less than 870 km (540 miles) from the geographic North Pole.

## Day 8: Sailing the continental shelf

While retracing your route west, keep watch for polar bears and elusive Greenland (bowhead) whales. About 40 nautical miles west of Spitsbergen, you sail the edge of the continental shelf. Here fin whales forage during the summer in the upwelling zones (where cold, nutrient-rich water wells up from below the sea's surface) that run along the Spitsbergen banks. At the mouth of Kongsfjorden, you have a good chance of seeing minke whales.

## Day 9: Reindeer, foxes, and so many seabirds

Walrus sometimes haul out in Forlandsundet, your next stop. As an alternative, you might sail into St. Jonsfjorden or venture south to the mouth of Isfjorden, landing at Alkhorneret. Seabirds nest on these renowned cliffs, while Arctic foxes search below for fallen eggs and chicks, and reindeer graze on the sparse vegetation. You arrive in Longyearbyen later at night.

## Day 10: There and back again

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. You disembark in Longyearbyen with 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 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 mandatory).
- 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

### Snow-Shoeing

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

### In-field and on-board discovery and learning workshops, exhibitions and performances

FREE



Participate in various interactive in-field and on-board workshops, exhibitions, and performances featuring themes of discovery and learning. Specific topics may vary based on voyage, departure location, and the availability of specific expedition staff and/or guest lecturers and performers.

### 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

## Quadruple Porthole



- 2 portholes
  - 2 upper & lower berths
  - Small sofa
  - Private shower & toilet
  - Flatscreen TV
  - Desk & chair
  - Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)
  - Hair dryer
  - Cabinet
  - 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.

20600 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

5150 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
  - 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.

18900 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

6300 USD

## Twin Porthole



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



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

14700 USD



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

12495 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

7350 USD

## Twin Window



1 window  
2 single beds  
Small sofa  
Private shower & toilet  
Flatscreen TV  
Desk & chair  
Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
Hair dryer  
Cabinet  
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. 15900 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 13515 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price 7950 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  
Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 17000 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 14450 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price 8500 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  
Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 19000 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 16150 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  
Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

20400 USD



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

17340 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  
Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

23500 USD



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

19975 USD