

VOYAGE INFORMATION

Voyage Name	Iceland, Jan Mayen and Svalbard
Voyage Code	IJS001G
Dates	24 June-04July, 2021
Duration	11 days / 10 nights
Start	Reykjavik
Finish	Longyearbyen
Ship	Greg Mortimer
Forms Due	24 March, 2021

Welcome!

Thank you for joining Aurora Expeditions on our *Iceland, Jan Mayen & Svalbard* expedition.

From the lush green mosses and bustling bird cliffs of Iceland to the stark, sublime beauty of Jan Mayen and the high Arctic wonderland of Svalbard, embrace the breathtaking contrasts of the Arctic on this singular expedition. Zodiac cruise through glacier-filled fjords, take a guided hike across the Arctic tundra, search for polar bears and walrus, and embrace a rare opportunity to visit the world's northernmost active volcano.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1	Reykjavik
Days 2-3	Westfjords
Day 4	At Sea
Day 5	Jan Mayen
Day 6 -7	At Sea
Day 8 -10	Svalbard
Day 11	Longyearbyen

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Zodiac-cruise under dramatic bird cliffs in Iceland's Westfjords
- Visit remote Jan Mayen Island, home to Mount Beerenberg, the world's northernmost active volcano
- Photograph walrus and reindeer while keeping an eye out for polar bears hunting on pack ice
- Hike through a marvelous, diverse terrain: ice caps, tundra, polar desert and rocky hillsides

EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Half day tour of Longyearbyen upon disembarkation on day 11 including transfer to the airport afterwards
- On-board accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell drinks including a four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team

- Free access to our onboard doctor for consultations relating to sea-sickness. A standard fee of US \$60.00 (reclaimable through your travel insurance provider) applies for medical consultations not related to seasickness
- A 3-in-1 waterproof polar expedition jacket
- Complimentary use of muck boots during the voyage
- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- A printed photo book produced with photos from your voyage
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees

EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights, unless specified
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, gratuities, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges.

Note: A \$15 USD per person per day gratuity for the crew is automatically added to your onboard account. It is at your discretion if you would like to remove the tip (or increase/decrease the amount) when you settle your bill. It is not necessary to tip the expedition team members. This gratuity amount is included for suites as part of their 'Suite Benefits'.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Please refer to this itinerary as a guide only, as changes may occur due to unpredictable sea and weather conditions. Flexibility is key, when joining us on our expeditions.

Day 1 **Embark Reykjavik**

After making your own way to Reykjavik pier, embark the *Greg Mortimer* in the late afternoon from 4.00 pm. You'll have time to settle into your cabin before our important safety briefings.

Days 2-3 **Westfjords**

One third of Iceland's coastline is in the Westfjords, and the entire peninsula is carved and cut by long fjords. The Westfjords region is home to Látrabjarg; the westernmost point in Europe, and one of the continent's most remarkable seabird breeding cliffs, a delight for bird-lovers. It is one of the best places in Iceland to photograph puffins, an opportunity you'll have on a Zodiac cruise, weather permitting.

We plan to explore the Westfjords region, featuring outstanding landscapes with jaw-dropping views of dramatic fjords carved by ancient glaciers, sheer table mountains that plunge into the sea and pristine North Atlantic vegetation. The region features attractive towns such as Isafjordur, the famous Dynjandi waterfall, and spectacular fjords offering kayaking excursions, hiking trails, and bird-watching.

In true expeditionary style, we keep our itinerary flexible to allow for spontaneity based on weather and sea conditions. We plan to visit Hornstrandir peninsula, one of Iceland's remotest and most pristine regions filled with many deep and dramatic fjords, towering bird cliffs, stunning natural beauty and opportunities for wildlife encounters. Enjoy the bountiful silence and magnificent landscapes seen only by the few adventurers that make their way here.

Day 4 **At Sea**

Cross the Denmark Strait to Jan Mayen Island accompanied by sea birds while keeping a look out for whales. Enjoy a presentation from our team of experts, get to know your fellow expeditioners, stay fit at the gym or treat yourself to a massage in the wellness centre.

Day 5 **Jan Mayen**

The approach to Jan Mayen is spectacular. The huge Beerenberg volcano (2,277 metres/ 7,470 feet altitude) is the world's northernmost active volcano, and last erupted in 1985. The northern part of the island is a great place to look for whales and dolphins, and contains impressive glaciers, some of which reach the sea. If the weather is friendly, we will try to land at Kvalrossbukta, a relatively sheltered bay on the island's west coast. This is one of the landings used to supply the weather station Olonkinbyen, situated on the eastern side of the island. We hope to land on front of the Norwegian station at Olonkinbyen, stop to visit the weather station before embarking on a three-hour hike (weather permitting) to the other side of the Island where the *Greg Mortimer* will be waiting for us in Kvalrossbukta, and our trusty Zodiacs will transport us back to the ship.

Day 6-7 **At Sea**

The sea around Jan Mayen offers excellent whale-watching opportunities (bottlenose, fin, and perhaps bowhead whales in the pack ice). Sail towards Svalbard, searching for the ice edge as we continue north, retracing the route of Dutch explorer Willem Barents who discovered Spitsbergen and the Barents Sea, named after him. It's breeding season for the harp seals and we hope to see them breeding on the sea ice. As we approach Svalbard, all eyes will be focused on spotting polar bears in the pack ice.

Day 8 - 10 Svalbard

Svalbard offers unspoiled, raw Arctic wilderness at its best. With majestic mountains, iridescent sea ice, countless glaciers and superb wildlife-viewing opportunities. Our experienced expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design our voyage from day to day, choosing the best options based on the prevailing weather, ice conditions and wildlife opportunities.

We generally make landings or Zodiac excursions twice a day. You'll want to rug up before joining Zodiac cruises to witness walrus colonies hauled-outs on sea ice or on beaches, under towering cliffs of nesting sea birds or glide past glistening icebergs in your kayak.

We plan to cross 80° North, always on the lookout for polar bears on the pack ice, to reach Moffen Island, famous for its large walrus colony. Our expedition team work tirelessly, so that you may experience these incredible wildlife encounter. Ship cruising along spectacular fjords offers great opportunities for photography, hike upon colourful tundra, perhaps tasting wild blueberries along the way.

Day 11 Longyearbyen

During the early morning we cruise back into Longyearbyen. Farewell your expedition team and enjoy a town tour, where you will visit Svalbard Museum and Galleri Svalbard, and take in the main sights of Longyearbyen including Office of the Governor, Svalbard Church, Nybyen (new town), a few of the town's mines such as Santa Claus Mine, and a quick photo stop at the famous beware of polar bear street sign. Afterwards, transfer to the airport for your onward journeys.

NOTE: At the conclusion of the voyage, we do not recommend booking flights departing prior to 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation in case there are delays.