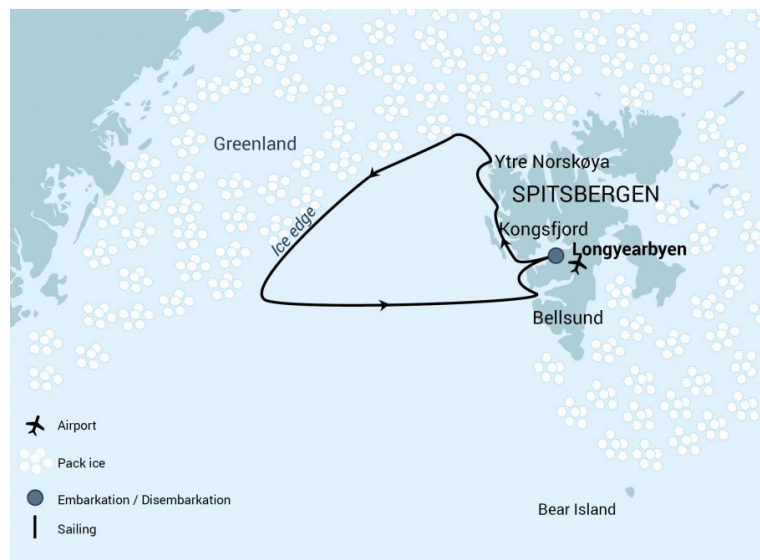


North Spitsbergen - Bowhead Whales & Polar Bears in the sea ice – Birding

This expedition focuses on spotting whales, polar bears, birds and other Arctic wildlife while enjoying the 24-hour daylight of the Arctic summer



Title:	North Spitsbergen - Bowhead Whales & Polar Bears in the sea ice – Birding
Dates:	23 Jun - 30 Jun, 2022
Tripcode:	HDS05-22
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.

Search for whales, polar bears, birds and other exotic wildlife among the Arctic sea ice while enjoying the 24-hour daylight of the midnight sun, which provides excellent conditions for outdoor photography and activities.

Workshop: Sounds of whales and seals

In this engaging audio workshop, we will provide you the theoretical background of various acoustic tools that we will help you use to locate and interpret the songs of whales and seals. This fun and informative workshop covers both the theory and practice of analyzing marine mammal sounds, requiring you to bring no additional equipment.

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: Walruses, seals & sea birds

After an exciting sailing through straits and fjord we arrive late morning at Smeerenburg, where a large group of Walruses often lays at its haul-out place. It is also a rare opportunity to see Harbour Seals on rocky islets. Smeerenburg was an important whaling station in the 17th century. Later on the day we land at Fuglesangen, where we have a great opportunity to sit among hundreds of nearby Little Auks. In the evening we make a short landing in Birgerbukta, where the Basq whalers had their station, and continue into the splendid Raudfjord.

Day 3: Route to Raudfjorden

Raudfjord, with glacier fronts, is a good area for meeting Polar Bears and Bearded Seals on fjord ice, which is still unbroken. In Hamiltonbukta is an impressive colony of Brünnich's Guillemots. Later we visit Ytre Norskøya, a small island which was used for many years as a lookout point for Dutch whalers. There we can still follow their tracks to the summit of the island. On shore the remains of 17th century blubber ovens can be found near about 200 graves. The north side of the island offers the rare opportunity to see Puffins near their breeding places. There is also a small colony of Kittiwakes. From there we sail northwest to the edge of the pack-ice.

Day 4 - 6: Along the ice edge in search of Bowhead Whales, Seals & Polar Bears

At sea sailing from 80 N to 76 N along and in the outer fringes of the ice edge looking for Bowhead Whales, Harp Seals, Hooded Seals, Polar Bears and migrating seabirds like Little Auks, Brünnich's Guillemots, and Kittiwakes. On previous voyages in this area we have sometimes seen up to hundred Bowhead Whales. On the last day, at open sea we have good chances for Northern Bottlenose Whales and the first Fin Whales of the season.

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

Bellsund is a fjord system with two major branches (Van Mijenfjord, Van Keulenfjord) and a side bay (Recherchefjord). The geology is fascinating and has created amazing landscapes, such as the long, narrow island of Akseløya that blocks Van Mijenfjord almost completely. The rich wildlife of the area has attracted hunters throughout several centuries, including English whalers, who also wintered there. - we will walk in their footsteps and see remains of their huts. We see often Polar Bears and we have also seen Beluga (white whales) in this area. Much is depending on the fjord -ice how far we can sail into these fjords.

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.

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

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.

Workshop Sounds of whales and seals

FREE



This fun and informative workshop covers both the theory and practice of analyzing marine mammal sounds, requiring you to bring no additional equipment.

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.

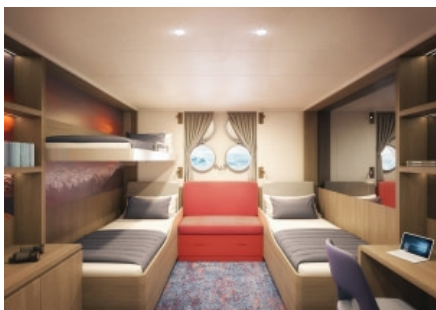
15400 USD



Sharing berth
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

3850 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.

14250 USD



Sharing berth
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

4750 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.

10600 USD



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

9010 USD



Sharing berth
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

5300 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.

11500 USD



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

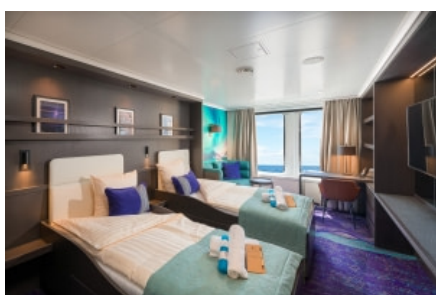
9775 USD



Sharing berth
Share your cabin with others for the best price

5750 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.

12200 USD



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

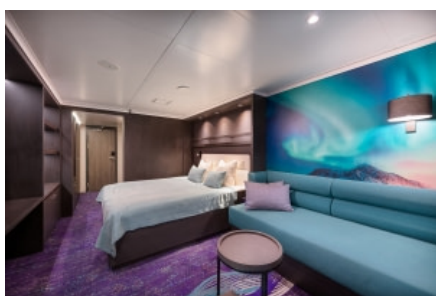
10370 USD



Sharing berth
Share your cabin with others for the best price

6100 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.

13800 USD



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

11730 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 13800 USD
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 14800 USD



Single cabin 11730 USD
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 12580 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 14800 USD
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 17100 USD



Single cabin 12580 USD
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 14535 USD