

North Spitsbergen, In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice Summer Solstice, Arc of Meridian

The best opportunity to spot the King of the Arctic



Title:	North Spitsbergen, In search of Polar Bear & Pack Ice Summer Solstice, Arc of Meridian
Dates:	16 Jun - 23 Jun, 2022
Tripcode:	HDS04-22
Duration:	7 nights
Ship:	m/v Hondius
Embarkation:	Longyearbyen
Disembarkation:	Longyearbyen
Language:	English speaking voyage, Language assisted 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.

Start your North Spitsbergen cruise with a trek around historic Longyearbyen, then join our expedition to the north of the island to take in the fantastically beautiful landscapes, the thousands of seabirds, and of course the star of the show, the polar bear.

2022 summer solstice: midnight sun, and 24-hour day

The midnight sun is a phenomenon that occurs during the Arctic summer, when the sun is visible for a full 24 hours in fair weather. The 2022 summer solstice in Longyearbyen falls on Tuesday, 21 June, at 11:13am. The term solstice (Latin solstitium) means “sun-stopping” and describes the point on the horizon at which the sun appears to rise and set, stopping and reversing directions after this day. On the solstice, the sun does not rise precisely in the east but rather north of east, then later sets to the north of west, making the sun visible for a longer period of time. It will not be until late August that the sun fully goes down again, and then only for a few minutes. Join us in experiencing this fascinating phenomenon during this voyage through the Arctic wilderness of Svalbard.

Workshop 1: Navigation

If you've ever wondered how ship crews and explorers navigate the high seas, this activity will give you all the basics of both historic and modern methods. Through engaging onboard workshops, we will provide you both the theoretical background of various navigation tools as well as hands-on training in how to use sextants, cartographic charts, and modern GPS units. All workshops are supervised by expedition staff and bridge officers with extensive experience in navigating multiple environments. You are not required to bring additional equipment. The guest speaker for this activity is Lothar Kurtze, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in London and volunteer project coordinator of the Faulkes Telescope Project in Germany and Austria. Lothar operates a private observatory in Weinheim (Baden-Württemberg) and is often recruited as a lecturer in astronomy on Arctic and Antarctic expedition trips.

Workshop 2: Photography

Designed for both beginners and advanced photographers, this fun and informative workshop gives passengers the chance to practice their nature photography skills under the supervision of a professional photographer. The photographer accompanies the workshop group during shore landings. Up to 20 people per guide can participate during landings, while anyone on board can attend photo lectures. 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 in how to use specific camera models but

instead teaches basic rules of photography for better outdoor pictures. Participants with special photographic interests must bring their own equipment corresponding to those interests.

Remains of the Arc-of-Meridian Expedition: -

For those interested in polar science history, this voyage offers you the chance to see the remains of a major scientific endeavor. In 1823, the Irish scientist, soldier, and explorer Edward Sabine had an observatory on Indre Norskøya, an island in northwestern Svalbard. Using a pendulum to study gravity, he suggested a project to measure the meridians (lines of longitude through the poles) on Spitsbergen, the goal of which was to define the curvature of the Earth. At the end of the 19th century, this project was finally carried out during the Swedish–Russian Arc of Meridian Expedition. The measurements required a chain of triangulation points that reached from Crozierpynten and Vesle Tavleøya in the north to Keilhaufjellet in the south. Most of the rock cairns built for this project can still be seen today, and it is our aim to view the ones that lie along our route.

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: Route to Raudfjorden

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 3: 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 4: 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 attempt a landing on Nordaustlandet. Here reindeer, pink-footed geese, and walrus are likely sights. You can take an alternate route if ice prevents entry into Hinlopen.

Day 5: Stop at the Seven Islands

The northernmost point of your voyage may be north of Nordaustlandet, in the Seven Islands. Here you reach 80° north, just 870 km (540 miles) from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, so the ship may park for several hours among the pack ice before wheeling around west again.

Day 6: 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 sighting minke whales.

Day 7: Reindeer, foxes, and so many seabirds

Walrus sometimes haul out in Forlandsundet, your next stop. Alternatively, you 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. You arrive in Longyearbyen later at night.

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

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.

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
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

14800 USD



Single cabin
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
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

17100 USD



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

14535 USD