

# North Spitsbergen, In search of Polar Bear & birds - Summer Solstice

The best opportunity to spot the King of the Arctic



Title:	North Spitsbergen, In search of Polar Bear & birds - Summer Solstice
Dates:	15 Jun - 22 Jun, 2023
Tripcode:	PLA04-23
Duration:	7 nights
Ship:	m/v Plancius
Embarkation:	Longyearbyen
Disembarkation:	Longyearbyen
Language:	English speaking voyage
Important:	Kayaking is an optional activity

## 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.

### 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.

### 2023 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 2023 summer solstice in Longyearbyen falls on Tuesday, 21 June, at 16:57 pm. 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.

### 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 Alkhorneret. 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.

## ACTIVITIES YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN



### Kayaking

ON REQUEST

This activity is currently sold out. You can request to be added to the waitlist in case of a cancellation.

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.

# CABINS & PRICES



## Quadruple Porthole

- 1 porthole
- 2 upper & lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair
- Flatscreen TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
- Hair dryer
- Ample storage space
- Safe deposit box
- 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.

**16000 USD**



### Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

**4000 USD**



## Triple Porthole

- 1 porthole
- 1 upper berth & 2 lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair
- Flatscreen TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
- Hair dryer
- Safe deposit box
- Ample storage space
- 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.

**16800 USD**



### Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

**5600 USD**



## Twin Porthole

- 1 porthole
- 2 lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair
- Flatscreen TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
- Hair dryer
- Safe deposit box
- Ample storage space



### Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

**11200 USD**



### Single cabin

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

**9520 USD**



### Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

**5600 USD**



## Twin Window

- 1 window
- 2 lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair
- Flatscreen TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
- Hair dryer
- Safe deposit box
- Ample storage space



### Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

**12100 USD**



### Single cabin

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

**10285 USD**



### Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

**6050 USD**



### Twin Deluxe

- 2 windows
  - 2 lower berths
  - Private shower & toilet
  - Desk & chair
  - Flatscreen TV
  - Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
  - Hair dryer
  - Ample storage space
  - Safe deposit box
- These cabins are corner cabins and are slightly more spacious than the normal twin porthole/window cabins



#### Complete cabin

**12800 USD**

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.



#### Single cabin

**10880 USD**

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



#### Sharing berth

**6400 USD**

Share your cabin with others for the best price



### Superior

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



#### Complete cabin

**14600 USD**

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.



#### Single cabin

**12410 USD**

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