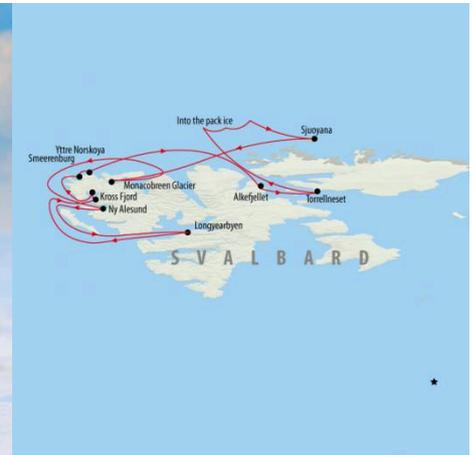


Wild Wonders of the Arctic

8 days | Starts/Ends: Oslo



Enjoy the immense beauty of Svalbard on this 8-day expedition cruise to the remote Norwegian archipelago. Take in the wild wonders of the Arctic as we cruise among whales, walrus, polar bears and millions of sea birds. Marvel at jaw-dropping glaciers and colossal icebergs, see ruined mining communities and cruise along shimmering fjords.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Longyearbyen – start your voyage in the northernmost town in the world.
- Lilliehook Glacier – venture into the fjords and take a Zodiac cruise along the Lilliehook Glacier front (weather dependent)
- Smeerenburg – take in this former whaling town of the 17th century where there was once more than 200 people living in the heyday of blubber production.
- Torrelnesset – Explore the plentiful wildlife at the polar desert landscapes.
- Svalbard Pack Ice – keep an eye out for polar bears on the floating pack

ice as this is where their prey – the seals – resides.

- Ny Alesund – explore this settlement of scientific stations, which is in fact further north than Longyearbyen.

What's Included

- Charter flight Oslo – Longyearbyen – Oslo
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners
- 7 nights aboard the Ocean Albatros expedition cruise ship in a shared outside double cabin with private facilities
- Services of the ship captain and crew and an English-speaking expedition team
- All guided sightseeing and excursions as per itinerary
- Full board on the ship, afternoon snacks, free tea and coffee daily
- Lectures from the expedition team onboard
- Special photo workshop and a digital visual journey to remember your trip
- Welcome and farewell cocktails
- Taxes and port fees

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping – an entirely personal gesture

- Any meals not onboard the ship & any drinks (excluding tea and coffee)
- Pre and post tour accommodation

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Longyearbyen, Spitzbergen



Arrival to Longyearbyen, Capital of Svalbard – possibly the northernmost 'real' town in the world. Included charter flight from Oslo to Longyearbyen, the capital of Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago which lies midway between continental Norway and the North Pole.

Upon arrival you will be met by a representative to take you by coach to the port. Our vessel is docked close to the town centre. After boarding and a welcome drink, the Expedition Leader will provide information about

Wild Wonders of the Arctic – 8 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 24-09-2022 03:49:53

Wild Wonders of the Arctic

the voyage, the ship's daily routines and the various security and safety procedures. Before sailing, there will be a mandatory safety drill. The Captain then takes the ship out of Advent Fjord and our Arctic adventure commences.

Overnight - Ocean Albatros (D)

Day 2 : Regnardeset & Lilliehook Glacier



During the 'night' (what is night, when the sun never sets?), we have passed Prins Karls Forland and have arrived in the magnificent Krossfjord. Our visit to Svalbard is in the middle of the arctic summer and at this time of year the migrating birds are very active. The months of June and July offers the best chances of spotting exotic and fantastic birds. We plan on making a landing during the morning at Mollerhamna or in another suitable location. The majestic landscape around Regnardneset in the innermost area of Krossfjorden give us our first taste of what has enticed the early explorers of these lands in the far north.

In the afternoon, we continue further north into the fjord system, and depending on the ice situation, we may do a Zodiac cruise along the Lilliehöök Glacier front... or enjoy a lecture.

With some arctic luck we will be able to navigate past the magnificent scenery in the bay of Fjortende Juli, where the glacier Fjortende Juli-breen calves into the fjord. A fitting end to a day full of scenic views and arctic wildlife.

Overnight - Ocean Albatros (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Exploring Northwest Svalbard



We have now entered North West Svalbard, which was declared a national park in 1973. The day could begin with a cruise in Danskergattet, looking for seals in Virgohamna, before crossing from Danskoya to Amsterdamoya to make a landing at Smeerenburg, the legendary whaling town of 17th century. 200-plus men were living – and quite often dying – here in the heyday of blubber production.

There are several interesting places to visit in this northwestern corner of Spitsbergen. If conditions allow we'll make a landing on Ytre Norskoya, where whalers would have their lookout posts. **Overnight - Ocean Albatros (B, L, D)**

Day 4 : Alkefjellet & Torrelnesset



In the morning we arrive and cruise slowly by the famous Alkefjellet. If the weather is on "our side" we will have a good view of the steep cliffs. The whole area is home to a dense congregation of Brunichs guillemots. There is so many of the birds, that hardly an inch is free. During the summer the breeding pairs offer a wild view of frantic activity, both along the cliffs and in the sea in front.

More wildlife awaits us as we land at the polar desert landscapes of Torrelnesset. The beach here is home to a host of walrus that lay amongst each other. They feed on the clams and any other molluscs that they can find in the shallows of Svalbard's waters.

Overnight - Ocean Albatros (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Into the Pack Ice



During the night the ship will steer far north towards the edge of the polar pack ice. How far north only time and weather will tell, but the main target for us is just the 'edge', possibly at 80 degrees north! This is the kingdom of the polar bear! As the pack ice retreats during summer, polar bears ride the floes north, as this is where their prey – the seals – resides. Bears who for unfortunate reasons do not 'catch' the ice moving north, are stranded on Svalbard all summer, and will have to sustain on berries, eggs and whatever whale cadavers they can find. A hard life indeed!

During the day, lectures on polar mammals, environment and/or culture can be enjoyed on board in the Viking Theater. Should we get into the pack ice where the sea usually is calm, our captain will cruise slowly between the floes and look for wildlife.

A part goal of the day is to also reach the island Nordaustlandet and hopefully its 7 (or 9, depending on how you count) smaller islands Sjuøyane in the far north of Svalbard. The almost vegetation-free, rocky islands are located around 1000 km more

Wild Wonders of the Arctic – 8 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 24-09-2022 03:49:53

Wild Wonders of the Arctic

northerly than mainland Norway's famous Nordkapp.

Weather permitting, we will land and walk these most northern landmasses. The high Arctic islands are quite barren, only with moss and lichens covering the stones. The birdlife is rich in this area and some of the rarer gulls frequent these islands. So bring your binoculars.

At the end of the day, we will start cruising towards the Liefdefjord and its landscapes which we will see tomorrow. **Overnight - Ocean Albatros (B, L, D)**

Day 6 : Liefde Fjord & Monaco Glacier



During the night we head to Wood Fjord and its branch, the Liefde Fjord. Our plan is to slow cruise along the broad glacier front of Monacobreen. This gives a unique insight of the glacial forces and the unlimited forms of icebergs. The ice front is named after Albert I of Monaco, who was a major sponsor of Svalbard research.

Many trappers historically hunted and trapped in these areas. Some of them stayed over the winter and built cabins. The cabin known as Texas Bar is said to be named after the US state of Texas. This cabin was built in 1927. We plan to visit the area around the cabin and enjoy the scenery that surrounds us. **Overnight - Ocean Albatros (B, L, D)**

Day 7 : Ny Alesund & Ny London



Today we enter the beautiful Kongs Fjord known for the former mining settlement and simply being one of the most amazing fjord areas in all of Svalbard. Our first landing will be at Ny Ålesund. This settlement is in fact further north than Longyearbyen, making it THE northernmost town. But... is a group of scientific stations, a post office and a single shop open for a few hours a real town? You will have to judge for yourself. The setting is nice, the scientific projects are very interesting, and so is the town history. The Captain will try to get alongside, so we can enjoy an easy walk through the area.

On the opposite side of the fjord we find the abandoned marble mining settlement Ny London. Its history is short but hectic, as the marble deposits allowed for an almost Klondike like rush to mine the resources. Wars and failing financial viability ended the adventure only 9 years after it started. We take a walk amongst the ruins of workshops, locomotives and cranes, testament to the great but failed investments.

After the visit, we are southbound towards the entrance to the Isfjord. On our way towards Longyearbyen, we hope to get our last glimpses of wildlife as well as the truly unique landscapes of Svalbard. **Overnight - Ocean Albatros (B, L, D)**

Day 8 : Longyearbyen



Early in the morning the ship has returned to our starting point in Longyearbyen. After breakfast and farewell greetings to the expedition team and crew, disembarkation will take place. Transfer is arranged to the airport.

Please note that all the outings and landings rely on weather, sea and ice conditions being favorable both for the ship to access the areas, as for the zodiacs and kayaks to maneuver under adequate conditions, ensuring the safety of all our passengers and staff.

For this reason, during moments of harsh weather and throughout the entire trip, our ships have excellent public areas, such as wellness/sauna, restaurant, bar and a library for our passengers to spend their spare time. Our ships are staffed by experts in the field who will also share great lectures along the way, ranging from exploration history to biology, geology, ice and wildlife. **Overnight - Ocean Albatros (B)**

ACCOMMODATION

Highlighted below are some of the accommodation/ hotels which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these stays to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel or start point and further arrival information.

Ocean Albatros

Wild Wonders of the Arctic - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 24-09-2022 03:49:53

Wild Wonders of the Arctic

Making her debut in November 2022 the Ocean Albatros is set to become one of the most popular expedition cruise vessels in the world. With the highest Polar code 6 and Ice class 1A, the Ocean Albatros is ideal for small-ship expedition cruising in the Arctic, with a sturdy construction offering high stability in rough weather. For shore landings the ship has 18 motorized rubber 'Zodiac' boats, taking you to exciting areas that the larger vessel can't reach. This state-of-the-art vessel is also part of a new generation of low-energy vessels, ensuring it's environmentally friendly with a 50% lower carbon footprint than traditional expedition ships. There are 95 comfortable cabins and suites on board, including 12 single cabins. All of the cabins are spacious with an en suite bathroom, sofa and a TV, with either portholes or windows, offering an unobstructed sea view. The higher category of cabins also have their own balcony. On board you can soak up the scenery and spot wildlife from the viewing deck and observation lounge or head to the Sunpool Deck to enjoy the swimming pool, jacuzzi and pool bar. The spa boasts a unique panorama sauna and there's a gym if you want to work up a sweat. Enjoy tasty international cuisine in the two on board restaurants and relax with a drink in the Nordic bar after an incredible day spotting giant glaciers and icebergs.



BEFORE YOU GO

Cruise Overview

Enjoy the immense beauty of Svalbard on this Arctic adventure cruise among whales, walruses, polar bears, and

millions of sea birds. The goal of this expedition on the brand-new vessel Ocean Albatros is to sail as close as possible to the pack ice from the North Pole north of Svalbard, the polar bear's favourite summer residence.

Along our route we will make landings on as many amazing locations as possible, all depending on the ice conditions and how far north and east we can navigate. During the short summer, wildlife is busy storing up energy for the polar winter.

Every rock ledge shimmer with life of countless birds. Foxes and reindeer are roaming on snow and grass slopes below the cliffs. Arctic guillemots, black guillemots, razorbills and many other sea birds are diving in the wake of our ship. Whales and seals are seen foraging along the edge of the pack ice and along the coasts, and we will keep a sharp lookout for colonies of huge walruses at their beach haul-outs. Our Zodiac expedition boats allow us to tender the short distances to shore and make landings along the spectacular coastlines.

Optional Activities

SNOWSHOEING

Snowshoeing is an activity that allows you to hike across soft, powdery snow up gentle slopes to reach to unique vantage points without the hassle of sinking into deep snow. Snowshoeing is as basic as hiking and you do not need to have previous experience. The journey takes about 2-3 hours in total. This activity is dependent on suitable snow conditions and appropriate terrain as agreed upon by the expedition team.

Bookable locally (subject to availability) - \$150pp USD

KAYAKING

Glide through the waters and take in the royal grace of the icebergs, see the varied birds and seals, and maybe even the whales in their natural habitat

under the supervision of experienced kayak guides, who will ensure your safety during each outing. In order to sign up for this activity you need to have previous kayaking experience and attend a mandatory safety briefing by the Kayak Master. Weather, sea, and ice conditions will dictate the when and where to ensure your safety and improve your experience.

Bookable locally (subject to availability) - \$250pp USD

Tipping

It is customary to leave a tip at the end of the voyage which will be divided among the ship's crew. Tipping is a very personal matter and the amount you wish to give is at your discretion. As a generally accepted guideline, we suggest approximately USD \$14 per person per day.

Norway Country Guide

Please note

This tour is operated in conjunction with our trusted partner and you will join travellers who booked through different operators, not solely On The Go

This itinerary should be used as a guide only and may vary from day to day depending on road & weather conditions.

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 3 months from your planned date of departure from Norway.

UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA passport holders do not require a visa for a stay of less than 90 days

Wild Wonders of the Arctic - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Wild Wonders of the Arctic

Norway is part of the borderless region known as the Schengen Area and South African residents require a Schengen visa in order to enter Norway. A passport valid for at least three months from your departure is required and a visa will only be issued if blank pages are available and if the passport has been issued in the last 10 years. Requirements for the procurement of a Norway visa are subject to change but application requirements include round-trip travel itinerary specifying entry and exit dates from the Schengen state and proof of funds to support yourself during your stay, along with a copy of your travel insurance policy. Visas are issued by the Norwegian embassy in Pretoria.

Currency

The official currency in Norway is Norwegian krone, written as NOK. Banknotes come in denominations of 50kr, 100kr, 200kr, 500kr and 1000kr. Check OANDA for the latest exchange rates.

Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be easily exchanged in Norway with banks and bureau de changes offering the better exchange rates once in destination. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases. Debit and credit cards are widely accepted in restaurants, shops, hotels and even taxis across Norway and you'll find ATMs throughout the country, even in smaller towns, though withdrawal fees may be charged. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

Time & Voltage

Norway works on Central European Time (CET) which is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed in Norway with the clocks turning forward one hour at the end of March and one hour

backwards at the end of October each year.

The standard voltage in Norway is 230 volts, 50Hz AC. Primary sockets generally require Continental or European plugs of the two round pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

Tipping

Salaries are really good in Norway with waiters and bar staff earning a decent wage, which means tipping is not required nor expected. Restaurants and bars include the service charge in your bill though in upmarket restaurants where table service is an important part of the experience, a tip is appreciated. It's also uncommon to tip taxi drivers or hotel staff.

Food & Drink

Norwegian cuisine primarily focuses on game and fish, resources that are found in abundance in the country's pristine woodlands and surrounding seas. Traditionally meat would feature in every main meal whether it's slow-cured lamb's leg (fenaalår) served with vegetables for dinner or smoked salmon (røkt laks) served with scrambled eggs, dill, mustard sauce and bread for lunch. Norway's long winters meant that preserving food was necessary to last the season, which gave rise to a fondness for cured fish (tørrfisk), often eaten at breakfast with lefse, the national flatbread, and Jarlsberg cheese.

Preserved meat and sausages are popular and eaten as part of a spread or served in hearty stews. Norway's meat specialities include moose – said to taste similar to venison, reindeer – wonderfully lean meat, and grouse – tender with a mild gamey taste. These meats grace restaurant menus in autumn when hunting season begins. Often meat is accompanied by potatoes (mashed, boiled or pureed)

and a cream-based sauce or thick gravy.

Like elsewhere in Europe, bread is an important staple in the Norwegian diet and tends to be coarse in texture and made with whole grain flour. Rye bread is typically used for open-sandwiches, known locally as smørbrød, a buttered slice of bread topped with a range of ingredients including cheese, caviar, hard boiled egg, herring, pâté, salad leaves, herbs, sliced cucumber, tomato and pickled beets.

Norway's climate and countryside are the ideal environment for wild fruits with strawberries, bilberries, lingonberries, raspberries and apples all particularly intense in flavour and used in desserts and sweet treats such as krumkake – a cross between a waffle and a pancake that's rolled up and filled with whipped cream.

The people of Norway love their coffee, so much so in fact that they are the second highest consumer of coffee in the world. This means you'll find quality barista-style coffee shops in all of Norway's cities and larger towns. As far as alcoholic beverages go, Norway produces a number of pilsners, red beers and malt beers with a rich flavour. With a long history, mjød (mead – a famous honey wine) is a very traditional Scandinavian drink and graces the shelves of many tourist shops though it's not a commonly-drunk beverage.

In recent decades Norway's dining scene has vastly improved with a much better selection of international cuisine and in the larger cities you'll find a respectable choice of dining options. Today, Norwegian chefs lean towards the use of locally produced organic ingredients, creating modern versions of traditional dishes.

Water: Tap water is safe to drink in Norway as it is of fantastic quality and unlikely to cause any stomach upsets.

Wild Wonders of the Arctic – 8 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 24-09-2022 03:49:53

Wild Wonders of the Arctic

Avoid drinking from river streams when out in the countryside, however, as water may contain harmful parasites

Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice from your local health practitioner before travelling to Norway and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. Allow yourself 6-8 weeks to do so. As a guide, vaccinations against tetanus are recommended. The medical facilities and healthcare in Norway are excellent and available for free or at a reduced cost to European Union citizens with a valid EHIC form or its replacement ID card.

During winter in Norway the main health risk is hypothermia and frostbite. With temperatures reaching well below freezing across Norway, ensure you have packed enough warm clothing and thermal under layers, as well as good quality gloves, socks and hat to keep body extremities warm and covered. In summer mosquitoes and blackflies are a particular nuisance so take a DEET-based repellent and keep covered up.

Shopping

With a long tradition of knitting, Norway is an excellent place to pick up a wool sweater or scarf. Knitwear is of high quality and comes in a variety of timeless, practical designs and functional colours. Wool is also used for thermals and outdoor clothing, perfectly suited to the cold temperatures of Norway's winter so it's worth looking out for quality pieces while you're here.

High-end shoppers will find ample shopping opportunities for design pieces from furniture to lighting. Scandinavian design is particularly known for its use of traditional materials and contemporary styles.

In Norse mythology and Scandinavian folklore trolls are believed to be the very first inhabitants of the region and

although you're unlikely to bump into a real-life troll, you can always bring home a miniature ceramic or plastic figurine. Another good souvenir option is a Viking drinking bowl made from wood and usually hand-painted or a Bjørklund cheese slicer, Norway's most famous invention.

Prices of goods in Norway are fixed though you may be able to bargain a little off the price for goods sold at markets.

Prices of goods

Norway has one of the highest price levels for personal goods and services in all of Europe and its reputation as an expensive travel destination is well-deserved. Norwegians are paid a good living wage and there's little disparity in income but for an international visitor, the exchange rate means that Norway is a costly holiday.

To put it in some perspective, a main course at an inexpensive restaurant costs around USD\$18 while a three-course meal at a nicer restaurant will set you back closer to USD\$50. A half litre bottle of locally produced beer purchased at a bar will cost around \$8 while a small bottle of water is around USD\$2.50 though you can save money here by drinking tap water instead.

While on a tour in which your accommodation, local transportation, breakfast and touring is included in the price, we recommend you budget USD\$50-80 per person per day for additional meals, drinks and items of a personal nature.

Wi-Fi

Norway offers good internet access across its cities and larger towns with WiFi found in cafes and public spaces across the country. Many hotels provide free WiFi access to their guests and there is often free WiFi on board buses and trains though registration is usually required and access limited by time. Cruise ships that operate through

Norway's fjords usually charge for WiFi and prices can be expensive

Wild Wonders of the Arctic – 8 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 24-09-2022 03:49:53