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# SPITSBERGEN ADVENTURES

## LONGYEARBYEN

The Svalbard Archipelago rests in total darkness from mid November until mid-January, after which an incredible Arctic twilight exists as the days steadily get lighter – a great time to travel and explore this magical land. To witness the sun finally return in March is a unique experience, as the people of Spitsbergen celebrate what is literally their first dawn of the New Year.

Just over 1000km from the North Pole, this group of islands is largely covered by glaciers. Spitsbergen, the only inhabited island of the archipelago, is an incredible base for winter activities, and offers an exciting variety of options in the lands where the magnificent polar bear reigns supreme. Sightings, though never guaranteed, are most likely on the Snowmobile Safari or Dog Sledge Safari.

The following land-based tours allow the opportunity to experience fascinating Spitsbergen, whether as a short break in the main settlement of Longyearbyen with amazing daily activities and excursions, a more adventurous Winter Snowmobile Safari venturing to the abandoned radio station at Kapp Linné, or an authentic Dog Sledge Safari taking us to the stunning frozen lands of the east coast.



© Fred Sykes

Dog Sledging

## POLAR NIGHTS OF SPITSBERGEN LONGYEARBYEN

Perched on the fringes of a beautifully wild Arctic landscape Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen's capital, huddles below a backdrop of glacial mountains and has a population of less than two thousand people. Life in the tight-knit community of this remote outpost is based around tourism, mining and research.



### POLAR NIGHTS OF SPITSBERGEN

Prices from £995

5 Days / 4 Nights

There are approximately 4,500 polar bears in Spitsbergen, more than the resident human population and beyond town this Lord of the Arctic roams free.

On this short break we spend three nights at the Radisson SAS Hotel Polar in Longyearbyen and allow time to join a wide range of optional excursions. A visit to the glacial caves known as 'the ice grotto' or tour of a mine is included and the rest of the time is free to choose from the excursions available, a selection of which is listed opposite.

### ITINERARY

**Day 1** Fly to Oslo, stay overnight at an airport hotel.

**Day 2** Fly to Longyearbyen, stay three nights at the Radisson SAS Polar hotel (B).

**Day 3 & 4** Join the 'ice grotto' tour or mine visit (included). Other optional excursions are available, as described (B).

**Day 5** International flight back to the UK (B).

B – Breakfast.

### THE RETURN OF THE SUN

6 March 2008

Experience the Return of the Sun and the dawn of a New Year with the people of Spitsbergen.

Following a long cold winter, with many months of darkness and polar twilight, this special departure coincides with the first dawn of spring, when the inhabitants of Spitsbergen receive their first direct sunlight of the year.

After living in Arctic twilight for several months the sun is welcomed back to Longyearbyen with a week long festival which includes concerts, exhibitions and outdoor events. Although this is mainly organised for the local population you will be able to join in and experience the community spirit changing with the reappearance of sunlight.

Following the Polar Nights of Spitsbergen itinerary, this is a simply unique opportunity to witness a time of local celebration and fabulous skies, in these incredible Arctic lands.

### EXCURSIONS

#### The 'Ice Grotto' Glacial Caves – see the inside of a glacier

Travel by tracked-vehicle to a glacier just outside Longyearbyen. All participants will be equipped with helmet and headlamp before descending into tunnels formed by the glacial water. Our guides will walk with you through caves with fascinating rock and ice formations.

Approx. £70 per person, 3 hours, pre-bookable.

#### Longyearbyen's Mining Heritage – visit a working coal mine

Discover the history of coal mining in Spitsbergen. Donning overalls, helmet and headlamp we embark on a 5km drive into the heart of this operational mine, where we can witness coal being extracted. Alternatively we may visit the last mine in Spitsbergen where coal was mined by hand. In the footsteps of the miners, this tour offers an introduction to the history of mining and, suitably equipped for the excursion, we set off into the mountain to experience what it was like to work in the narrow tunnels.

Approx. £70 per person, 3 hours, pre-bookable.

### Dog Sledging

Join our team of huskies through the Arctic wilderness.

Approx. £85, 3 hours, bookable locally.

#### Snowmobile day-trip

Drive across snowy plains and through narrow valleys during this exhilarating 45km round trip. Fully briefed and prepared, we venture out of Longyearbyen and explore the mountain area beyond.

From £175 per person, 8 hours. Driving licence required, bookable locally.

#### Polar Evening in the Wilderness

Travel by tracked-vehicle to a permanent camp outside Longyearbyen. In the heart of the wilderness, under the shelter of a large heated tent, a traditional dinner will be served. Here we huddle together to hear tales of Spitsbergen's fascinating past and learn more of day to day life in Norway's most northern territory.

Approx. £80 per person, 4 hours, bookable locally.

Other excursions may be available locally.



Sunrise

© Spitsbergen Travel – Trym Ivar Bergamo



## SPITSBERGEN DOG SLEDGE SAFARI

### SPITSBERGEN DOG SLEDGE SAFARI

Prices from £2,295

9 Days / 8 Nights

Visit Longyearbyen and join an incredible five-day dog sledge safari where we will stay at a tented camps on frozen fjords and in valleys with wonderful views of majestic glaciers in the distance.

Beginning in Longyearbyen, we meet our guide and the dogs for a morning briefing, before helping to pack the equipment and being taught how to drive the sledges.

We set out towards Reindalen, marvelling at the wonderful scenery we pass by, with nothing but the panting from our huskies and their patter of paws upon the snow to disturb this absolute silence.

We set up our camp and after preparing the food for both ourselves and the dogs, there will be time to relax and learn more about life in the Arctic.

The following morning we plan to cross three glaciers on our way towards the east coast. This is the realm of the polar bear and we may be lucky enough to see some of these magnificent creatures over the coming days, as our journey leads us north along the coast and over glaciers and mountain passes up to 700m high. Breathtaking views across the pack ice and mountains behind provide a stunning backdrop to our trip before we finally make our way back to Longyearbyen. A farewell dinner marks the end of this adventure.

### ITINERARY

**Day 1** Fly to Oslo. Overnight at airport hotel.

**Day 2** Fly to Longyearbyen, overnight stay at Spitsbergen Guesthouse (B).

**Day 3** Transfer to the husky camp for briefing and preparations. Sledge towards the east coast and set up tented camp (B, L, D).

**Days 4 – 7** Weather permitting we plan to continue east, then north along the coast. Overnight in tented camps (B, L, D).

**Day 7** Arrive Longyearbyen in the evening. Overnight at Spitsbergen Guesthouse (B, L, D).

**Day 8** Free time in Longyearbyen for visits. Overnight at Spitsbergen Guesthouse (B, L, D).

**Day 9** Depart for return flights (B).

B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner.

*All participants should be reasonably fit and prepared for extreme temperatures and the exact itinerary of our days will be dictated by weather and snow conditions. Participants are expected to help to prepare for each trip, assist around the camp and feed the dogs.*



Huskies



© James MacDonald



## WINTER SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

### WINTER SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

Prices from £1,465

5 Days / 4 Nights

Visit Longyearbyen, the capital of Spitsbergen and join a fabulous two-day snowmobile safari through this dramatic landscape, stopping at a Russian mining settlement and staying at beautiful Kapp Linné, set in peaceful surroundings and facing the Arctic ocean.

Beginning in Longyearbyen, the capital of the Svalbard archipelago, our guides give us a full briefing and overview of the journey ahead. We set out at a moderate pace towards the fascinating Russian settlement of Barentsburg where we have lunch and some free time.

We spend time exploring this remote outpost of Old Russia before continuing to Kapp Linné, situated at the mouth of Icefjord. Here we stay at a former radio station, which offers comfortable rooms, a lounge and dining room in an utterly breathtaking, remote location.

After breakfast the following morning we travel back to Longyearbyen, weather permitting via a different route. Enjoying lunch on the way, we arrive back in Longyearbyen in the late afternoon for an overnight stay, before departing for our international flights.

No experience of driving a snowmobile is necessary for this trip but participants should be confident drivers. Remember to bring your driving licence.

### ITINERARY

**Day 1** Fly to Oslo and stay overnight at an airport hotel.

**Day 2** Fly to Longyearbyen, stay overnight at the Radisson SAS Polar Hotel (B).

**Day 3** Information meeting with the guide for the safari. Set off in the morning.

Visit to Barentsburg and Kapp Linné, overnight (B, L, D).

**Day 4** Return trip to Longyearbyen via alternative route, overnight at Radisson SAS Polar hotel (B, L).

**Day 5** Return flight to the UK (B).

B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner.

*All participants should be reasonably fit and prepared for extreme temperatures, and the exact itinerary of our days will be dictated by weather and snow conditions. Participants are expected to help to prepare for each trip.*



Snowmobiling



Souvenirs

# SHIP INFORMATION

### OUR SHIPS

Our ships vary depending upon their size and age but all come with their own individual style and character. On board, large panoramic lounges are complemented by bars, a café serving snacks and a restaurant offering celebrated Norwegian cuisine and relaxation is the order of the day. Most ships also have a lift, a small library and some ships are equipped with Jacuzzis. Our vessels function as working ships calling at ports around the clock. You might experience some limited noise and vibrations in a few cabins during loading of goods.

### CABINS

The prices are based on twin cabins (inside or outside depending on itinerary) with en-suite facilities and cabin numbers will be allocated on embarkation.

The cabins vary in size and location. Standard inside cabins have a table, a small wardrobe, a bed and a sofa which can be converted to a bed. Standard outside cabins also have a window or porthole. Some cabins may have upper and lower berths.

Should you wish to upgrade to a suite, please let us know at the time of booking and we will contact you approximately three weeks before your departure with availability.

### DAY TO DAY TIMETABLE

To the right you will find a day to day timetable. The length of stops varies depending on the ports and can range from 15 minutes to several hours which allows for excursions. During the festive season, some ports of call may be cancelled to allow a longer stay at another port to facilitate extra time for local celebrations.

### ENTERTAINMENT

The emphasis on board is on relaxation. Our aim is to get closer to unique environments and share the experience with fellow passengers. Occasionally some musical entertainment on some stretches of the voyage may be offered but there is no organised programme. Please note that during the Christmas and New Year period there might be special entertainment on board and the ships may be host to celebrations.

### STABILISERS

Most of our vessels are equipped with stabilisers. On the coastal route the ships enter the open sea on only a few occasions for a few hours during the trip, the majority of the time the ships sail between mainland Norway and the coastal islands where the sea is generally calmer. If required, sea

I Grade, inside cabin



N Grade, outside cabin

## DAY BY DAY TIMETABLES 2007/8

NORTHBOUND	OCT – APR		SOUTHBOUND	OCT – APR			
	Arrive	Depart		Arrive	Depart		
DAY 1	Bergen	–	22:30	DAY 7	Kirkenes	–	12:45
DAY 2	Florø	04:45	–		Vardø	16:00	17:00
	Måløy	07:30	–		Båtsfjord	20:30	–
	Torvik	10:45	–		Berlevåg	22:30	–
	Ålesund	12:00	15:00	DAY 8	Mehamn	01:15	–
	Molde	18:30	–		Kjøllfjord	03:30	–
DAY 3	Kristiansund	23:00	–		Honningsvåg	06:15	–
	Trondheim	06:00	12:00		Havøysund	08:30	–
	Rørvik	21:15	–		Hammerfest	11:15	12:45
DAY 4	Brønnøysund	01:00	–		Øksfjord	15:45	–
	Sandnessjøen	04:15	–		Skjervøy	19:45	–
	Nesna	05:30	–		Tromsø	23:45	–
	Ørnes	09:30	–	DAY 9	Tromsø	–	01:30
	Bodø	12:30	15:00		Finnsnes	04:45	–
	Stamsund	19:30	–		Harstad	08:00	08:30
	Svolvær	21:00	22:00		Risøyhamn	11:00	–
DAY 5	Stokmarknes	01:00	–		Sortland	13:00	–
	Sortland	03:00	–		Stokmarknes	15:15	–
	Risøyhamn	04:30	–		Svolvær	18:30	19:30
	Harstad	06:45	08:00		Stamsund	21:45	–
	Finnsnes	11:45	–	DAY 10	Bodø	01:30	04:00
	Tromsø	14:30	18:30		Ørnes	07:15	–
	Skjervøy	22:45	–		Nesna	11:15	–
DAY 6	Øksfjord	02:15	–		Sandnessjøen	13:30	–
	Hammerfest	05:15	06:45		Brønnøysund	17:00	–
	Havøysund	09:45	–		Rørvik	21:30	–
	Honningsvåg	11:45	15:15	DAY 11	Trondheim	06:30	10:00
	Kjøllfjord	17:45	–		Kristiansund	17:00	–
	Mehamn	20:00	–		Molde	21:30	–
	Berlevåg	22:45	–	DAY 12	Ålesund	00:00	00:45
DAY 7	Båtsfjord	01:00	–		Torvik	02:15	–
	Vardø	04:00	04:15		Måløy	05:45	–
	Vadsø	08:15	–		Flora	08:15	–
	Kirkenes	10:00	–		Bergen	14:30	–

The coastal ships make stops at all the ports mentioned in our itineraries. In the larger towns and cities you may have several hours to spend ashore, or maybe take part in one of the excursions. At the smaller ports, the stops are brief, though you will usually have a chance to go ashore. Please check on board to ensure that you return to the ship in time for departure. Hurtigruten reserves the right to make alterations to this timetable without prior notice.