Three Arctic Islands: Iceland, Greenland, Spitsbergen (13-day)

This award-winning and popular expedition cruise takes you from high above the Arctic Circle in Spitsbergen, Norway, to Scoresby Sund on the northeast coast of Greenland, ending in fascinating Iceland. Iconic arctic animals such as the polar bear, musk ox, reindeer and walrus are commonly seen. From active volcanoes to massive glaciers to the best sites for wildlife spotting, this adventure takes in varied destinations. If you want to experience the Arctic in all of its beauty, then you must venture to these Three Arctic Islands.

EXpedition in brief

- Marvel at one of National Geographic Travelers’ 50 Tours of a Lifetime
- Experience the glaciers and wildlife of Spitsbergen
- Explore a remote fjord-strewn coast of Greenland
- Cruise in a Zodiac
- Hike the tundra
- Take advantage of optional kayak adventure opportunities

DID YOU KNOW? The Greenland Sea was home to a seasonal ice bridge called the Odden Ice Tongue. Last formed in 1997, this bridge of ice would form from the eastern edge of Greenland halfway to Svalbard, reaching Jan Mayen Island. The name came from the way the ice formed in the currents of the Greenland Sea, which made the ice resemble a tongue.
Adventure Options

Booking an Adventure Option as part of your expedition is a great way to enhance your polar experience. These options are subject to availability and fill up quickly, so be sure to book yours early. Please note that Adventure Options are weather dependent.

**KAYAKING**

Imagine gliding along the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers! Our kayaking adventures are the best way to feel at one with the sea. Taken by small groups of 10 people, multiple times per voyage, kayaking adventures are only conducted during calm weather conditions. We recommend you have some prior kayaking experience, including the capability to do a wet exit.

*More information about your Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost, is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser.*

**INCLUDED ACTIVITIES (VARY BY DEPARTURE)**

**HIKING**

Hiking is a great way to appreciate the immense windswept landscapes of the Arctic. The tundra comes alive during the brief arctic summer, with bursts of color from shrubs and plants that live in this polar environment. You’ll find that each hike is different: you’ll explore communities, shorelines or glaciated landscapes, often on the lookout for wildlife. Hiking participation is optional, and your Expedition Team will advise you of what levels of activity you can expect prior to each excursion.
**Itinerary**

**DAY 1 Embarkation Day in Longyearbyen, Norway**

Your voyage will embark in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen.

**DAYS 2 TO 5 Spitsbergen, Norway**

Exploring Spitsbergen, the largest of the Norwegian-ruled Svalbard islands, rewards you with abundant wildlife and austere beauty. Here, you’ll visit spectacular glacier fronts and steep-walled fjords with walrus, polar bears and Spitsbergen reindeer among your possible wildlife sightings. Birders will be thrilled to see arctic terns, skuas, long-tailed ducks, kittiwakes and ivory gulls. When conditions are right, you could sail within 10 degrees of the North Pole!

**DAYS 6 AND 7 Greenland Sea**

While sailing south through the historic Greenland Sea, you’ll learn about the wildlife and history of Greenland, your next stop. On deck, you’ll learn to identify seabirds on the wing. Take in a lecture, share your photos, sip an icy cocktail in the bar or watch a movie—there are many things to do during your time at sea.

**DAYS 8 TO 11 East Greenland**

During your tour of Greenland’s remote eastern coast, you’ll enjoy Zodiac cruises and shore visits to several locations. Visit the remains of ancient Thule settlements, and keep an eye out for grazing muskoxen; 40% of the world’s population lives here. Finally, you will sail through spectacular Scoresby Sund, the birthplace of many icebergs and, some say, the most beautiful fjord system in the world.

**DAY 12 Denmark Strait**

At sea, the Denmark Strait is your pathway toward Iceland. Your Expedition Team will keep you informed and entertained with presentations about the history of exploration in the Arctic and the seabirds you’ll inevitably see soaring above your ship.

**DAY 13 Depart Reykjavik**

You’ll disembark in Akureyri, and transfer to your waiting charter flight to Reykjavik, Iceland’s capital, at the end of your journey. If you have booked post-expedition accommodation, we provide a transfer to a central downtown location.
Arrival & Departure Details

Welcome! As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested to know the details of your arrival and departure. Since air transportation to and from your voyage is not included in the cost of your expedition, you will need to arrange flights from your home to the starting point, and home again from the finishing point. Quark Expeditions® can assist you with booking air arrangements on an individual basis, or feel free to contact your preferred travel agent or airline. Here are the details for your expedition.

Arrival Day and Embarkation

ARRIVING IN LONGYEARBYEN AND EMBARKATION
Please be sure to arrive prior to 3 pm on Day 1 of your expedition. Based on the arrival information you send us, we will arrange for a transfer from the airport to a downtown hotel meeting point. Your luggage will go on to meet you in your cabin when you board the ship. At a designated time which will be communicated during your arrival transfer, you will be transferred to the ship for embarkation.

For passengers arriving one day before the start of the itinerary, a transfer will be provided to your previously arranged hotel. A pre-expedition hotel night is not included. Speak to your Polar Travel Adviser for assistance in booking this hotel accommodation, or if you choose to book independently, please include the hotel information with the arrival details that we will need to arrange your transfer.

Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION IN AKUREYRI
Your ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Akureyri, between 7 am and 8 am local time. After breakfast, and once the ship has docked, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour. After disembarkation, you will transfer to the airport for the return charter flight to the domestic airport in Reykjavik.

Please note: There is a strict luggage limit of 44 lbs (20 kg) checked luggage and 11 lbs (5 kg) cabin baggage on the flights between Akureyri and Reykjavik.

DEPARTING FROM REYKJAVIK
Upon arrival in Reykjavik, there will be a group transfer to a central downtown location for those who have chosen to stay in Iceland for additional time.

Please note: Weather conditions can always delay our arrival, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for delays due to unforeseen circumstances. A post-expedition hotel night is recommended.

Hotel Accommodations
Your itinerary does not include hotel accommodation before or after the scheduled itinerary. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser for hotel options. Since accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

LONGYEARBYEN AIRPORT TRANSFERS
Arrival transfers in Longyearbyen are included. Please provide your flight information to your Polar Travel Adviser so that transfers can be arranged for you.

In order to facilitate your transfers, we request that you provide your flight details to Quark Expeditions® at least 30 days prior to traveling.

REYKJAVIK AIRPORT TRANSFERS
A transfer is provided from the Reykjavik domestic airport to a central downtown location at the end of the expedition.

LET US HELP YOU BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS!
To book flights to complement your expedition, contact a Polar Travel Adviser (1.888.892.0073) for seamless, worry-free booking of all flights.
Inclusions

THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES

- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks on board
- All shore landings per the daily program
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
- Photographic journal documenting the expedition
- Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
- Official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Hair dryer and bathrobe in every cabin
- Comprehensive predeparture materials, including a map and an informative Arctic Reader
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US$500,000 per person
- Greenland voyages cruise passenger tax
- Arrival transfer from Longyearbyen airport to your hotel if you arrive one day prior to embarkation day
- Transfer from your hotel or Longyearbyen airport to the ship on embarkation day
- Charter flight from Akureyri to Reykjavik
- Group transfer to downtown Reykjavik on disembarkation day

THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES

- International airfare
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified
- Phone and Internet charges
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
- Additional overnight accommodation
- Optional kayaking activities
- Pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Longyearbyen
- Post-expedition hotel accommodation in Reykjavik

Note: Baggage allowance on charter flight is 44 lbs (20 kg) checked and 11 lbs (5 kg) carry-on.
# Dates & Rates

**THREE ARCTIC ISLANDS** *Iceland, Greenland and Spitsbergen*

*Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship OCEAN ADVENTURER*

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<td>13</td>
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*All rates per person in USD.*

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**How to Book Your Expedition & Adventure Options**

To book your cabin or inquire about the availability of Adventure Options, contact a Polar Travel Adviser **1.888.892.0073 (+1.203.803.2666).**

**1-888-892-0073**
East Greenland

POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

RØDEFJORD

The Red Fjord, or Rødefjord, is named for the colorful sandstone located on its western side. The stone has been “stained” red by hematite, creating an oddity in this part of Greenland.

SCORESBY SUND

Revered by many as the most beautiful fjord system in the world, Scoresby Sund is definitely the longest and largest. The sound was named after William Scoresby Jr., a whaler, scientist and man of the cloth, who was famed for mapping more than 400 miles (640 km) of Greenland’s coastline.

C. HOFMANN HALVØ

This is often the best location for getting close to muskoxen. The peninsula is also home to wheatears and snow buntings, and you may spot rock ptarmigans or great northern divers while at sea.

DENMARK ISLAND

Encounter some of the most stunning icebergs before hiking across Denmark Island, which offers stupendous views of Scoresby Sund and Fønfjord below.

IMPORTANT REMINDER Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your expedition staff must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you’ll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed.
Svalbard

POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

LILLIEHÖÖK GLACIER

In 1906, His Serene Highness Prince Albert I of Monaco visited Lilliehöök Glacier to conduct scientific investigations. His great-great-grandson, HSH Albert II, visited the glacier a hundred years later as part of a scientific investigation, this time to further our understanding of the arctic clam, a species that lives for more than a century. The growth rings of a single clam’s shell contain evidence of the chemicals encountered by the clam. Scientists can determine the variations of the water’s temperature and pollutant content by studying the shell.

LONGYEARBYEN

Eighteen hundred people inhabit the administrative capital of Svalbard, which is situated on the shore of Isfjorden. The settlement was founded in 1905 by John Munroe Longyear, the majority owner of the Arctic Coal Company of Boston.

MONACO GLACIER

HSH Prince Albert I of Monaco, a pioneer of oceanography, led an expedition to Svalbard in 1906. His team used sophisticated photographic techniques to understand the shape and position of several glacier fronts. Monaco Glacier honors the expedition, the prince and the principality over which he reigned.

HORNSUND

The most southerly fjord in Svalbard offers some of the most spectacular scenery, with dramatic calving glaciers, drifting pack ice and majestic peaks (the highest of which are often shrouded in mist). A Polish research station has operated on the northern shore of Hornsund since 1957. Part of Sør-Spitsbergen National Park, this pristine area is rich in wildlife—reindeer, arctic fox and polar bears can often be spotted hunting for food, while ringed seals bask on the fast ice.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

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14TH OF JULY GLACIER

Named after France’s Bastille Day (the 14th of July), in honor of the arctic expeditions of His Serene Highness Prince Albert I of Monaco, this massive glacier is actually two smaller glaciers merged into one. Situated in Krossfjord, a bay on the northwest coast of Spitsbergen, the glacier is teeming with wildlife. Nesting atop the towering bird cliffs are purple sandpipers, common eiders, barnacle geese, arctic tern and Brünnich’s guillemots (thick-billed murres). Bearded and ringed seals also frequent the waters here.

Last updated January 6, 2017