Discovering Our Planet Together



Svalbard: In Search of Iconic Arctic Wildlife

Scout for Polar Bears, Seals, Walrus & Reindeer on an Arctic Wildlife Extravaganza

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Trip Details:

Days
10 Days / Apr–Jun

Price
From $14000 (+Air)

Physical Requirements
Moderate to Active

Svalbard: In Search of Iconic Arctic Wildlife

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A High Arctic archipelago lying north of Norway between the Barents and Greenland seas, Svalbard is just 600 miles from the North Pole. This rugged realm of deep fjords, jagged mountains and massive glaciers is warmed by the Midnight Sun during the endless days of the far-north summer. From the ship's deck rail and on Zodiac excursions, we may observe polar bears in the distance on the sea ice, their natural habitat, possibly hunting for seals on ice floes. Our onboard polar naturalists are ace spotters with high-powered scopes, and they will help us search not just for bears but also walrus, reindeer, Arctic fox, fur seals, whales and numerous birds. Look, too, for sculptural arrangements of whale bones on the pebbled beaches.

Trip Highlights

View Diverse Arctic Wildlife

Look for reindeer, Arctic fox, walrus, seals and a multitude of seabirds, approaching lively rookeries up close by Zodiac and kayak

Search for Polar Bears on the Sea Ice

Svalbard is one of the only places on Earth to spot polar bears in their natural sea ice habitat, and we look for them with high-powered spotting scopes

Travel with Esteemed Polar Experts

Learn about Arctic wildlife, geology, polar exploration and the impacts of climate change from our ship's team of researchers and expert naturalist guides

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Svalbard: In Search of Iconic Arctic Wildlife Itinerary

Scout for Polar Bears, Seals, Walrus & Reindeer on an Arctic Wildlife Extravaganza

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Oslo
Day 2	Oslo / Longyearbyen
Days 3–8	Svalbard
Day 9	Longyearbyen / Oslo
Day 10	Oslo



Day 1

Oslo

Discover Oslo's polar exploration heritage

- Explore the Fram Museum and its restored polar ship, time permitting
- Walk among hundreds of life-size figures in Vigeland Sculpture Park

Upon arrival in Oslo, check in to our hotel in Norway's lively, sophisticated coastal capital. Time permitting, you may wish to explore some of the city on your own. Highlights include the famed Vigeland sculptures—hundreds of life-size human figures set in rolling parkland, and the Fram Museum, named for the restored 19th-century ship on display and dedicated to Norwegian polar explorers Fritjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen. The evening is free to try one of the harborside restaurants, or turn in early to rest up after a long stretch of travel.

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Day 2

Oslo / Longyearbyen

Fly to Longyearbyen and board your Arctic expedition ship

- Travel by private charter to Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago
- Visit the Svalbard Museum to learn about the region's whaling, mining and research history
- Board your expedition vessel for a week of Arctic exploration

Depart Oslo on our private chartered flight to Longyearbyen. Located on the island of Spitsbergen, which is the largest in the Svalbard archipelago, Longyearbyen is the administrative center and largest settlement in Svalbard, with about 2,100 residents. A visit to the Svalbard Museum is included to learn more about Svalbard and its context in Norway and the Arctic, from 17th-century whaling to modern mining, research and tourism. Then transfer to the pier to embark one of our two sister ships, the *National Geographic Endurance* or *National Geographic Resolution*, which will be our floating base for the next week as we go in search of polar bears and other Arctic wildlife so abundant in Svalbard.

Days 3–8

Svalbard

Explore Svalbard's coast in search of polar bears and other Arctic wildlife

- Join spotters on the Bridge to scan ice floes and shorelines for polar bears, walruses and seals
- Explore by Zodiac and kayak among icebergs, sheltered bays and glacial fjords
- Watch and listen for calving ice at the face of a tidewater glacier

The itinerary for our Arctic adventure is exploratory by design, and our exact day-to-day movements will remain flexible in order to accommodate local conditions and pursue the best wildlife watching in the best locations. We'll spend six exhilarating days cruising among the icebergs that drift along Svalbard's rugged coast, utilizing our onboard fleet of Zodiacs for closer observation along the shoreline, and access land for guided hikes. In spring, conditions may permit us to set foot on the frozen ice directly off the ship.

Our focus each day is polar wildlife, as we cruise among locations where walruses sun themselves, Svalbard reindeer roam, and polar bears forage in the distance. Join spotters on the bridge as you scan the ice floes and islands for these Arctic icons, along with bearded and ringed seals, Arctic fox, and whales at home in these frigid waters, including beluga, fin and minke. There's no greater thrill than a sighting that brings everyone rushing to the bow for a close-up view.

Cruising in Svalbard's sheltered bays and dramatic fjords, our nimble ship gets close to the face of tidewater glaciers, and we wait for the telltale rumble and crack that signals an explosive calving. Via Zodiac and kayak, examine glittering icebergs at eye level, admiring the blue tones reflected in the ice crystals. Ashore, learn about Svalbard's geology and hardy plant life, including the miniature wildflowers that bloom here later in the summer, providing dots of color in this otherwise monochrome landscape. Throughout this early-season journey, we take advantage of the ever-changing light that creates mesmerizing photography opportunities. Video from the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) carried on board gives a glimpse into the mysterious world that exists a thousand feet below the surface, which we learn about during daily recaps with the ship's multi-talented field staff.

Day 9

Longyearbyen / Oslo

Return from the high Arctic to Oslo

- Disembark your expedition vessel in Longyearbyen
- Fly south to Oslo and transfer to an airport hotel

Our Arctic expedition concludes as the *National Geographic Endurance* or *National Geographic Resolution* returns to port in Longyearbyen today. From here, fly back to Oslo and transfer to our hotel near the airport.

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Day 10

Oslo

Depart Norway after your Svalbard expedition

- Transfer to the airport for homeward flights

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for departing flights.

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Svalbard: In Search of Iconic Arctic Wildlife Accommodations

Scout for Polar Bears, Seals, Walrus & Reindeer on an Arctic Wildlife Extravaganza



National Geographic Endurance

This new expedition ship is a next-generation ice-class vessel that's purpose-built for year-round polar navigation, designed for 138 guests in 76 staterooms to safely explore uncharted waters in exceptional comfort.



National Geographic Resolution

This new, next-generation ice-class vessel accommodates 138 guests in 76 staterooms and is purpose-built for year-round polar expeditions, exploring remote and icy waters in utmost comfort.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/adventure-cruises/arctic-polar-bear-expedition-cruise/ships.

Sail with the World Leader in Conservation-Focused Small-Ship Cruising

Svalbard: In Search of Iconic Arctic Wildlife

We're proud to offer a worldwide slate of Expedition Cruises through our partner, National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions. Nat Hab joined forces with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions in 2016 to expand our mutual collection of nature adventures. Founded in 1958 by Lars-Eric Lindblad, the company pioneered eco-conscious expeditions for "citizen explorers" and today is the world leader in conservation-focused small-ship cruises.

1

Small Ships Assure Closer Nature Encounters

National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' ships offer an exhilarating, up-close experience of the High Arctic and polar wildlife in a personalized setting. The relatively small sizes of the *National Geographic Endurance* and *National Geographic Resolution*—accommodating 138 guests each—make them nimble enough to access narrow fjords and protected bays that bigger ships can't reach, while full stabilization and state-of-the-art technology provide exceptionally safe passage. Guests can also count on personal access to naturalists, guides and crew.

2

Benefit from More than a Half-Century of Expertise

Our Svalbard cruise is a genuine expedition-style experience with a seasoned polar adventure team. As pioneers in commercial polar cruising, National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions draws upon more than 50 years of experience navigating polar seas, assuring safe passage and an immersive adventure in one of the planet's wildest landscapes. You'll sail on a state-of-the-art expedition ship with a veteran Expedition Leader, assistant Expedition Leader and a team of naturalists with diverse specialties. National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' expert mariners have produced their own soundings and maps of areas that otherwise are not well charted, allowing its seasoned bridge officers to take you to lesser-known places in the Arctic that most travelers don't see. A National Geographic-certified photo instructor will help you capture outstanding photos of scenery and wildlife. In addition, *Endurance* and *Resolution* travelers are accompanied by a Global Perspectives guest speaker for added advice and insight.

3

A Host of Amenities & Activities Makes Every Day Exciting

Choose from a suite of adventures that immerse you in the raw beauty and wildlife of the Arctic wilderness, led by expert naturalists. Sturdy motorized Zodiacs grant access to cliffside bird rookeries and shore landings, while the *Endurance* and *Resolution's* large fleet of tandem kayaks offers closeup exploration of icebergs and marine life. Kayaks are chosen for their stability in polar waters, and since they're virtually untippable, no prior kayaking experience is necessary. A custom-designed floating platform allows kayaks to be deployed from most any location.

4

A Flexible Itinerary Enhances Your Adventure

The expeditionary nature of this journey allows for daily flexibility and spontaneity that are the cornerstone for genuine adventure. Our itinerary is focused on delivering an Arctic experience in exceptional depth, with plenty of leeway built in to permit that. The Expedition team has the freedom to follow wildlife, linger longer in places of lively animal activity, or change directions in search of better weather and wildlife-viewing conditions. Whether it's polar bear and walrus sightings from Zodiacs, a foray in search of Arctic fox and caribou, or watching for whales under the midnight sun, every day will expand your knowledge and appreciation for Arctic wildlife, natural history and native cultures.

5 **Observe the Arctic World Beneath the Waves**

An undersea diving specialist travels aboard every voyage. Outfitted for polar waters and carrying nearly 200 pounds of gear, this special member of the expedition team shoots high-definition footage of a deep, frigid sea teeming with life, which is then shared on plasma screens in the ship's lounge—it's a whole new way to appreciate the marine environment! Plus, the ship's remotely operated vehicle (ROV) dives up to 1,000 feet to view areas below the surface that are as unexplored as the moon. By sharing videos of potentially new species with scientists, such as a large worm our specialist captured imagery of in Antarctica's Weddell Sea, National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions voyages actively contribute to scientific research.

6 **Custom Tools Maximize Your Perspective**

A video microscope helps naturalists show and explain a multitude of elements in the Arctic environment, including tiny organisms in the marine ecosystem's building blocks—like a krill's body, at 80x magnification. High atop the ship's mast, a crow's nest camera provides a continual view on your surroundings that you can watch on your cabin TV. And underwater microphones are deployed to listen in on the Arctic's marine mammals, offering real-time sounds of nearby whales and other life below the sea.

7 **Sail with Experts Who Specialize in Svalbard and the Arctic**

Explore Svalbard with a passionate team of experts whose knowledge will enhance your adventure and your comprehension of the polar landscape. Travel with an Expedition Leader, a team of veteran naturalists, a National Geographic photographer, an undersea specialist, knowledgeable guest speakers, a video chronicler and a wellness specialist. Your first-rate team of naturalist guides specializes in the Arctic, from wildlife biologists to ornithologists, marine scientists and polar historians.

8 **We're Committed to the Planet**

Natural Habitat Adventures is a standard-setter in eco-conscious travel. We were the world's first 100% carbon-neutral travel company. And we continue to break innovative ground in adopting practices that help to protect our global environment. Because of our concern for the environment, we are pleased to partner with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions for our Expedition Cruises, a company that shares our values and commitment to the planet.

9 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our environmental commitment and the outstanding quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund has chosen Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation we're very proud of! When you book your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions cruise with us, a portion of your trip fee supports WWF.



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $14000 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 138 Travelers

Physical Requirements
Moderate to Active

Svalbard: In Search of Iconic Arctic Wildlife Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Apr 23 - May 2, 2027	**From $14000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Apr 30 - May 9, 2027	**From $14000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
May 7 - May 16, 2027	**From $14900** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Jun 3 - Jun 12, 2027	**From $18900** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Jun 10 - Jun 19, 2027	**From $17500** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Jun 17 - Jun 26, 2027	**From $19500** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance

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2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
May 1 - May 10, 2028	**From $15000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
May 8 - May 17, 2028	**From $15000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
May 15 - May 24, 2028	**From $15000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Jun 11 - Jun 20, 2028	**From $16000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Jun 18 - Jun 27, 2028	**From $16000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Jun 25 - Jul 4, 2028	**From $16500** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance

See https://www.nathab.com/adventure-cruises/arctic-polar-bear-expedition-cruise/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Includes two hotel nights, shipboard accommodations; most meals; alcoholic beverages (except premium brands); excursions; services of National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; gratuities to ship's crew; use of kayaks; all port charges and service taxes.

Not Included

Air transportation; personal items such as emails, laundry, DVD of voyage highlights, etc.; optional travel and/or medical evacuation insurance.

Recommended Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we strongly recommend that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. While this is not required, we make this strong suggestion in the interest of our guests' safety. We recommend that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Physical Requirements

Moderate to Active

This is an active expedition that requires mobility and good health. In order to participate, you must be able to walk unassisted for a minimum of one mile over rough and uneven terrain, including rocky beaches, ice and snow. To participate in excursions ashore,

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you must walk down a steep gangway (steel ramp with stairs) and climb into and out of rigid inflatable Zodiac rafts, which can sometimes be unstable, depending on water and wind conditions. Travel via Zodiac occurs over variable conditions and can sometimes be quite bumpy. If it's windy, you may get wet from sea spray. Travelers with back problems or other health issues that could be exacerbated by such conditions should take this into consideration. Travelers must be prepared for any type of weather, including extreme conditions that may involve high winds, rain and snow. While seas are generally calm on this expedition, it's possible we could encounter rough conditions, which may cause issues for travelers prone to motion sickness. The ships are fully stabilized, but we recommend that you discuss preventive medication with your physician if you are susceptible to motion sickness. The ship carries a qualified physician who is available at any time in case of emergency, and whose services are provided free of charge; however, the limited infirmary carries only basic medicines and equipment. This voyage is not advisable for guests using wheel chairs, crutches, etc. There are no jetways in Longyearbyen, and guests have to be able to climb the stairs via the jet bridge to board the aircraft and deplane from the aircraft.

Getting There & Getting Home

You will need to arrive in Oslo on Day 1 of the itinerary and depart Oslo on the final day. For exact timing, please contact your Adventure Specialist.

We can best serve you by having National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' air department book your flights, since National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions is most familiar with the special requirements of each trip. Please call National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions directly at 800-397-3348. Note that while National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' air department will offer you its best available rates on airfare, you may find better fares online.

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Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.