Discovering Our Planet Together



Norwegian Discovery: Svalbard & the Northern Fjords

Combine the Dramatic Coast of Northernmost Continental Europe with High Arctic Svalbard

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Trip Details:

Days
12 Days / May–Jun

Price
From $16900 (+Air)

Physical Requirements
Easy to Moderate

Norwegian Discovery: Svalbard & the Northern Fjords

Combine the Dramatic Coast of Northernmost Continental Europe with High Arctic Svalbard

From Norway's fjord-riven northern coast to the icebound wilderness of High Arctic Svalbard, explore two distinct yet intertwined regions on the upper edge of Scandinavia. Our voyage begins in Tromso, heading north along the indented coastline of Finnmark to explore a maze of fjords and islands. Here, huge colonies of seabirds flourish on the cliffs, flooding the silence with the cacophony of their calls. Continuing far above the Arctic Circle, our nimble expedition ship navigates among the ice floes of the Svalbard archipelago, where polar bears prowl, seals bob in the frigid ocean, and walruses haul out on rocky shores. Look for wildlife by Zodiac, kayak and hikes ashore, led by polar naturalists whose expertise enhances the awe that accompanies every moment of your Arctic adventure.

Trip Highlights

Far-North Fjord & Island Cruising

Explore north Norway's stunning fjords and islands as our expedition ship cruises among imposing peaks, waterfalls and steep-walled channels above the Arctic Circle

High Arctic Wildlife Viewing

Look for polar bears in their native sea ice habitat and other Arctic species as we navigate the icebound wilderness of the Svalbard Archipelago

Vast Nesting Seabird Colonies

Visit Bear Island, a remote nature reserve in the Barents Sea where tall columnar basalt cliffs are home to some of the largest colonies of nesting seabirds in Europe

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



Norwegian Discovery: Svalbard & the Northern Fjords Itinerary

Combine the Dramatic Coast of Northernmost Continental Europe with High Arctic Svalbard

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Tromso
Days 2–3	Senja / Soroya
Day 4	Bear Island
Days 5–10	Svalbard
Day 11	Longyearbyen / Oslo
Day 12	Oslo



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Day 1

Tromso

Board your expedition ship in Norway's Arctic gateway

- Arrive in Tromso, an Arctic university town known for its historic wooden houses
- Explore the city's waterfront, Polar Museum or Arctic Cathedral, time permitting
- Board your expedition vessel and set sail into the Scandinavian Arctic

Arrive in Tromso, the largest city in the Scandinavian Arctic, with just under 80,000 residents. A transfer is included from the airport to our meeting point in the city. If your timing allows, you may wish to explore some of the city's highlights on your own. A vibrant university town, Tromso is a major cultural hub in North Norway, drawing visitors to an array of festivals each summer celebrating everything from Viking heritage to jazz. The city's historic center is known for its centuries-old wooden houses, the oldest dating to 1789. A more contemporary architectural landmark is the Arctic Cathedral, built in 1965. Its modernist profile, which evokes an iceberg with its distinctive peaked roof and soaring stained glass windows, dominates the skyline today. The Polar Museum, located in the former Customs House on the quayside, tells the stories of the many polar seafaring expeditions that have departed from Tromso, including journeys by legendary explorers Fridtjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen. This afternoon, transfer to the pier to embark the ship.

Days 2–3

Senja / Soroya

Explore Norway's wild northern islands by kayak and on foot

- Sail through the fjords, channels and islands of Troms and Finnmark
- Kayak along Senja's turquoise coast beneath sheer mountain peaks
- Hike across green Soroya, an island dotted with some 1,200 freshwater lakes

Sailing north, our ship weaves its way through the maze of channels, inlets and islands that fracture the coastline of Troms and Finnmark, Norway's northernmost counties. Here, we are on the outer edge of continental Europe, immersed in a landscape as dramatic as any on Earth. Mountainous islands rise from the deep-blue ocean, and steep-walled fjords bring the saltwater far inland. Although we are several hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle here, the climate is surprisingly temperate due to the moderating influence of the Gulf Stream. Our first destination is Senja, Norway's second-largest island after Svalbard. The landscape here looks like something out of a fantasy novel, with sheer vertical peaks rearing toward the sky and sandy beaches edging clear turquoise seas at the island's base. Explore up close by kayak, and step ashore to wander village streets. Farther on is the mountainous island of Sørøya, known for its scenic bays, pristine nature reserves and large populations of *skrei*, or cod. Intensely green in summer, it holds some 1,200 freshwater lakes and offers outstanding hiking.

Day 4

Bear Island

Cruise beneath Bear Island's immense seabird cliffs

- Explore by Zodiac below cliffs crowded with kittiwakes, guillemots, little auks and fulmars
- Watch for Arctic foxes, the island's only native land mammals
- Cross the open waters where the Barents and Norwegian seas meet

In the open waters where the Barents Sea meets the Norwegian Sea, we reach Bear Island, the southernmost island in the Svalbard archipelago. Its documented history begins in 1596, when Dutch explorer Willem Barents first sighted the island. Since 2002, it has been protected in its entirety as a nature reserve. Bear Island is uninhabited except for a manned weather station, though past centuries saw efforts to develop commercial enterprises such as coal mining, fishing, walrus hunting and whaling. Contrary to its name, you won't find bears here, though some polar bears do arrive for a temporary visit once the pack ice freezes. The only indigenous land mammals on the island are a few Arctic foxes, though birdlife abounds.

At the southernmost tip of the island, vertical cliffs rise in angular columns from the sea. Perched on narrow ledges on the rock faces are some of the largest seabird colonies in Europe, earning Bear Island status as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International. The Norwegian Polar Institute conducts annual expeditions here for ornithological research, and we get our own close-up view via Zodiac, listening to the squawk of tens of thousands of northern fulmars, black-legged kittiwakes, little auks, guillemots and gulls. The island is often shrouded in mist, making for an evocative experience of the senses.

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Days 5–10

Svalbard

Search for polar bears and other Arctic wildlife among the ice

- Join spotters on the Bridge to scan for polar bears, walruses, whales, seals and reindeer
- Explore Svalbard's fjords, coves and pack ice by Zodiac and kayak
- Watch and listen for calving ice at the face of tidewater glaciers

Spend six days exploring the wonders of Svalbard, Norway's most northerly terrain. This island group lies well north of the Arctic Circle, between 74° and 81° north latitude, where the midnight sun never sets in summer. In true expeditionary fashion, we let nature dictate our day-to-day movements. Our flexible itinerary allows us to take the best advantage of ice and weather conditions in pursuit of Svalbard's abundant wildlife. Head up to the bridge to join our spotters, scanning the ice and islands for huge walrus, bearded and ringed seals, Arctic foxes, reindeer, whales, and, of course, polar bears. Our fully stabilized ice-class expedition ship probes deep into the pack ice where they hunt. Svalbard is one of the best places on Earth to see them in their native sea ice habitat, and our team of naturalists does all it can to provide sightings, though regulations require that we maintain a strict distance.

Cruising in Svalbard's sheltered bays and dramatic fjords, our small ship comes close to the face of tidewater glaciers, and we wait for the telltale rumble and crack that signals an explosive calving. Excursions get us off the ship and immersed in Arctic nature daily. In spring, conditions may permit us to set foot on the frozen ice directly off the ship. Cruising by Zodiac may offer close-up views of seals floating by on rafts of ice. And even first-time kayakers can paddle in a quiet cove surrounded by glittering icebergs. Back on board, view underwater video from the ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) that gives a glimpse into the mysterious world that exists a thousand feet below the surface. And spend time on deck with a National Geographic-certified photographer for tips on getting coveted shots of this magnificent landscape and its wild inhabitants.

Day 11

Longyearbyen / Oslo

Return from the High Arctic to Oslo

- Disembark your expedition vessel in Longyearbyen after breakfast
- Fly south from Svalbard to Oslo
- Transfer to your hotel in Norway's coastal capital

Returning to civilization, our ship arrives in Longyearbyen this morning, where we disembark after breakfast. 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. From the pier, transfer to the airport to board our flight to Oslo, then transfer to our hotel in Norway's lively, sophisticated coastal capital.

Day 12

Oslo

Depart Norway after your Arctic expedition

- Explore Oslo independently, time permitting
- Transfer to the airport for homeward flights

Our adventure concludes in Oslo this morning, with a transfer to the airport included to meet homeward flights. Time permitting, you may wish to explore some of the city on your own beforehand. 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.

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Norwegian Discovery: Svalbard & the Northern Fjords Accommodations

Combine the Dramatic Coast of Northernmost Continental Europe with High Arctic Svalbard



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.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/adventure-cruises/arctic-svalbard-norway-fjords-cruise/ships.

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

Norwegian Discovery: Svalbard & the Northern Fjords

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 Mean Closer Nature Encounters

National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' ships offer an exhilarating, up-close experience of Norway's fjords and High Arctic Svalbard in a personalized setting. The relatively small size of our National Geographic ships makes 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

This expedition cruise offers a genuine expedition-style experience with a seasoned polar crew and staff. 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, Explorer travelers are accompanied by a Global Perspectives guest speaker for added advice and insight.

3

A Broad Range of Amenities & Activities Makes Every Day Exciting

Choose from a host of adventures that immerse you in the raw beauty and wildlife of coastal Norway and the Arctic wilderness, led by expert naturalists. Sturdy motorized Zodiacs grant access to cliffside bird rookeries and shore landings, while a large fleet of tandem kayaks offers close-up 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 launched from most any location.

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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 a genuine immersion in nature and exhilarating wildlife encounters, 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, especially when we reach Svalbard. 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 World Beneath the Sea**

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 the Far North**

Explore Norway's fjords and the High Arctic wilderness of Svalbard with a passionate team of experts whose knowledge will enhance your adventure and your comprehension of these northern environments. 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 naturalist guides specialize 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-percent 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.

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

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.

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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $16900 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 138 Travelers

Physical Requirements
Easy to Moderate

Norwegian Discovery: Svalbard & the Northern Fjords Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
May 14 - May 25, 2027	**From $16900** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance · Tromso to Longyearbyen
May 25 - Jun 5, 2027	**From $16900** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance · Longyearbyen to Tromso

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
May 22 - Jun 2, 2028	**From $18000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance · Tromso to Longyearbyen
Jun 2 - Jun 13, 2028	**From $18000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance · Longyearbyen to Tromso

See https://www.nathab.com/adventure-cruises/arctic-svalbard-norway-fjords-cruise/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

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Included

One night hotel in Oslo; shipboard accommodations; meals indicated; alcoholic beverages (except premium brands); excursions; services of National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes; gratuities to ship's crew.

Not Included

Air transportation; personal items such as emails, laundry, voyage DVD, 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

Easy to Moderate

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 trails, rocky beaches, ice and snow. To participate in excursions ashore, 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 and consult with your physician beforehand. 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 itinerary, it's possible we could encounter rough conditions, which may cause issues for travelers prone to motion sickness. Our 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 must be able to climb the stairs via the jet bridge to board the aircraft and deplane from the aircraft.

Getting There & Getting Home

Please note the start date of this trip is the date you leave your home airport. You will need to arrive in Bergen or Oslo (depending on trip direction) on Day 2 of the itinerary and depart Oslo or Bergen on the final day.

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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.

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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