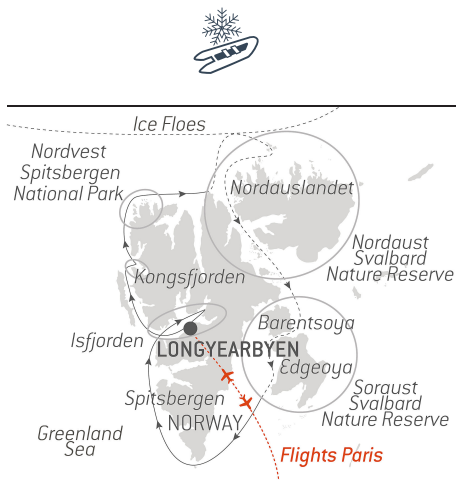


# Unexplored Svalbard

From **26/6/2021**  
to **3/7/2021**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**  
to **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**



Flight Paris/Longyearbyen + transfers + flight  
Longyearbyen/Paris

**PONANT** invites you to experience something exceptional by discovering the **Far North** and the immense open spaces of the **polar Arctic** and its ice floes that extend to the North Pole.

You will board the ship at **Longyearbyen in Norway** for an **8-day expedition cruise** to the heart of the Svalbard archipelago.

Over these expedition at sea aboard your ship, in the company of our specialist teams, you will discover the **exceptional flora and fauna** that lives in these extreme conditions, where temperatures reach  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter.

Your ship will first sail in the direction of the magnificent glaciers of **Kongsfjorden**, and then to the superb landscapes of the **Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park**. The deep blue waters of its fjords surrounded by snow-capped mountains are home to many species of cetaceans while its islands, beaches and wide bays shelter the remains of old whaling stations and trappers' cabins.

You will then set sail eastbound to try to reach the coasts of the **Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve**, and the **Hinlopen Strait**, a real polar desert sheltering many basaltic islets, majestic glaciers and a rich marine ecosystem: colonies of sea birds, walruses, polar bears and Arctic foxes come to feed here.

Perhaps you will also be lucky enough to be able to observe these emblematic species as you sail along the islands of **Barentsøya** and **Edgeøya** (also known as **Barents Island** and **Edge Island** respectively), in the **Sørøst-Svalbard Nature Reserve**, which is the largest protected zone in Norway.

During this unforgettable expedition, our ship will sail to latitudes of  $80^{\circ}$  north and you will discover that unique feeling of having reached the top of the world.

*We are privileged guests in these remote lands where we are at the mercy of weather, ice, tidal and current conditions. Landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the AECO.*



The information in this document is valid as of 1/3/2021

# Unexplored Svalbard

## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Embarkation 26/6/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 26/6/2021 at 18h00

**Longyearbyen** is the capital of the Norwegian **Svalbard** archipelago, located on **Svalbard's** main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.

### KONGSFJORDEN (KING BAY), SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 27/6/2021

Departure 27/6/2021

Very close to the former mining town of Ny-Ålesund, set off to discover **Kings Bay**. Your ship will sail in one of the most beautiful fjords in Svalbard: **Kongsfjorden** (the fjord of the King), a gateway to grandiose landscapes. Here, the snow-capped mountains are reflected in the water where superb **icebergs** try to outdo each other in their beauty, a delight for photographers. **Bearded seals, reindeer**, barnacle geese and black guillemots frequent these places that have a unique atmosphere. Once you arrive at the end of the fjord, admire the **Kongsbreen** (glacier of the King) and its three characteristic rocky points, which take their names from three Scandinavian countries: Svea (Sweden), Dana (Denmark) and Nora (Norway).

### NORDVEST-SPITSBERGEN NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 28/6/2021

Departure 28/6/2021

Like the other protected areas of Svalbard, the Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park was established in the early 1970s to protect this exceptional environment against the growing interest of the mining industry. Nunataks, glaciers, islands and large bays, **arctic tundra** scattered with moss and lichen in shades of silver and gold... This region will fascinate you with its landscapes and with the **numerous vestiges that bear witness to the history of the men** – whale hunters and those involved in the first expeditions to the North Pole – who found themselves on these shores from the start of the 17th century. In this pristine environment, you will be able to observe **arctic sterns** or **seals** on the rocks that emerge at low tide.

### NORDAUST-SVALBARD NATURE RESERVE

Arrival 28/6/2021

Departure 28/6/2021

The Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve has been protecting the northernmost and coldest part of the archipelago, **Nordaustlandet** (North East Land), since 1973. This vast **polar desert** covered by two ice caps is the second largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. Protected by the gulf stream, the fjords and cliffs in the west and north are home to large **colonies of birds and walruses**. The landscapes in the colder east and south are dominated by imposing glaciers that calve **majestic icebergs** in the vast **Hinlopen Strait**. Large colonies of **thick-billed murre**s have taken up residence on the sheer cliffs. You may even get the chance to see a **bear** or an **Arctic fox** roaming in the vicinity.

## SAILING TOWARD THE ICE FLOES

Arrival 29/6/2021

Departure 29/6/2021

Your captain will sail right up to the **limit of the ice**, to the **edge of the ice floe**. Weather conditions and state of the ice allowing, you will be able to go out in a Zodiac<sup>®</sup> dinghy for a unique experience in the middle of these floating slabs of ice. In addition to this grandiose journey through the middle of these floes with their cut and blue-tinged edges, sometimes over 2 metres thick, it is also often an opportunity to see a particular kind of fauna, totally dependent on the ice floe: **birds, seals and polar bears**.

## NORDAUST-SVALBARD NATURE RESERVE

Arrival 29/6/2021

Departure 30/6/2021

The Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve has been protecting the northernmost and coldest part of the archipelago, **Nordaustlandet** (North East Land), since 1973. This vast **polar desert** covered by two ice caps is the second largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. Protected by the gulf stream, the fjords and cliffs in the west and north are home to large **colonies of birds and walruses**. The landscapes in the colder east and south are dominated by imposing glaciers that calve **majestic icebergs** in the vast **Hinlopen Strait**. Large colonies of **thick-billed murre**s have taken up residence on the sheer cliffs. You may even get the chance to see a **bear** or an **Arctic fox** roaming in the vicinity.

## SORAUST-SVALBARD NATURE RESERVE

Arrival 1/7/2021

Departure 1/7/2021

The Sørøst-Svalbard Nature Reserve is the **second largest protected area in Norway**. Established in 1973, this nature conservation area stretching over more than 21,000 km<sup>2</sup> will offer you stunning panoramas including coastal landscapes, rocky islets, mountain plateaux, vast tundra plains, and ice floes. With a little luck, you will be able to observe a wide variety of seabirds, given the site is listed as an **Important Bird Area**, as well as **cetaceans**, **Svalbard reindeer**, or even **Arctic foxes**. Among other things, **Edgeoya Island** is renowned for providing shelter to a number of **polar bears** during the breeding season.

## ISFJORDEN

Arrival 2/7/2021

Departure 2/7/2021

The vast **Isfjorden** is one of the main fjords in **Svalbard**. These different branches reach the heart of the island of Spitsbergen. Located deep inside the Billefjorden, the **Nordenskiöld Glacier** is one of the very beautiful discoveries of your cruise. Its front of ice, nearly 5 km wide, is one of the most **spectacular** in the Svalbard Archipelago. You will perhaps have the opportunity to discover the **ghost town** of **Pyramiden**. Constructed at the foot of a mountain in the form of a pyramid, this former mining town, founded by Sweden at the beginning of the 20th century before being sold a few years later to the Soviet Union, and abandoned in 1998, has conserved all the buildings from its glory days, when it lived off coal mining.

## LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 3/7/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 3/7/2021 at 07h00

**Longyearbyen** is the capital of the Norwegian **Svalbard** archipelago, located on **Svalbard's** main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.