

# Around Spitsbergen

## Full Spitsbergen Circumnavigation



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| Title:          | Around Spitsbergen   |
| Dates:          | 6 Jul - 15 Jul, 2018   |
| Tripcode:       | PLA09-18   |
| Duration:       | 9 nights   |
| Ship:           | <a href="#">m/v Plancius</a>                                       |
| Embarkation:    | Longyearbyen   |
| Disembarkation: | Longyearbyen   |
| Language:       | German speaking voyage, English speaking voyage                    |
| Important:      | This is an English and German speaking voyage                      |
| More about:     | <a href="#">Arctic cruises</a><br><a href="#">Svalbard cruises</a> |

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## ITINERARY

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*PLEASE NOTE: N.B. The chances that we can complete a full Spitsbergen circumnavigation (based on our experiences from 1992 – 2016) are about 30% in the first half of July, 60% in the second half, 90% in the first half of August, and 95% in the second half. In case we cannot complete a full circumnavigation, we may resort to a program in northeast or southeast Spitsbergen. All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The on-board expedition leader determines the final itinerary. Average cruising speed for m/v Plancius is 10,5 knots.*

## **Day 1: Largest Town on the Largest Island**

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. In the early evening the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where you might spot the first minke whale of your voyage.

## **Day 2: Cruising Krossfjorden**

Heading north along the west coast, you arrive by morning in Krossfjorden. Here you might board the Zodiacs for a cruise near the towering blue-white face of the Fourteenth of July Glacier. On the green slopes near the glacier, colorful flowers bloom while flocks of kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots nest on the cliffs. You have a good chance of spotting an Arctic fox scouting for fallen chicks, or a bearded seal paddling through the fjord. In the afternoon you sail to Ny Ålesund, the northernmost settlement on Earth. Once a mining village served by the world's most northerly railway – you can still see its tracks – Ny Ålesund is now a research center. Close to the community is a breeding ground for barnacle geese,

## **Included in this voyage**

*Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary*

*All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.*

*All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.*

*Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.*

*Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.*

*Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to and from Longyearbyen.*

*All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.*

*AECO fees and governmental taxes.*

*Comprehensive pre-departure material.*

## **Excluded from this voyage**

*Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights*

*Pre- and post- land arrangements.*

*Transfers to / from the vessel outside Spitsbergen.*

*Passport and visa expenses.*

*Government arrival and departure taxes.*

*Meals ashore.*

pink-footed geese, and Arctic terns. And if you're interested in the history of Arctic exploration, visit the anchoring mast used by polar explorers Amundsen and Nobile in their airships, Norge (1926) and Italia (1928).

### Day 3: The Massive Monaco Glacier

Near the mouth of Liefdefjorden, you step ashore for a walk across the tundra of Reindyrflya. You may also sail into the fjord and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of the precipitous Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this glacier are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and the base of the ice is a popular polar bear hunting ground. If ice conditions prevent sailing here early in the season, an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen can be implemented.

### Day 4 - 5: Stop at the Seven Islands

The northernmost point of your voyage may be north of Nordaustlandet, in the Seven Islands. Here you reach 80° north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, so the ship may park for several hours among the pack ice to watch for them. When the edge of this sea ice is tens of miles north of the Seven Islands (mostly in August), you can spend a second day in this area. Alternatively (mostly in July) you may turn to Sorgfjord, where you have the chance to find a herd of walrus not far from the graves of 17th century whalers. A nature walk here can bring you close to families of ptarmigans, and the opposite side of the fjord is also a beautiful area for an excursion.

### Day 6: Hinlopen Highlights

Today you sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to bearded and ringed seals as well as

*Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is mandatory).*

*Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.*

*The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).*

polar bears. At the entrance there is even the possibility to spot blue whales. As with Liefdefjorden, you can take an alternate west Spitsbergen route if ice prevents entry into Hinlopen. After cruising among the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in the Zodiacs, you then view the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with their thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopen Strait, you may attempt a landing where reindeer, pink-footed geese, and walrus are likely sights. Near Torrelneset you can also visit the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third-largest ice cap. Here you may encounter walrus during a coastline hike over the area's raised beaches.

### **Day 7: The Bounties of Barentsøya**

The plan is to make landings in Freemansundet, though polar bears sometimes make this impossible. Potential stops on Barentsøya include Sundneset (for an old trapper's hut), Kapp Waldburg (for its kittiwake colony), and Rindedalen (for a walk across the tundra). You might also cruise south to Diskobukta, though Kapp Lee is more likely your destination. On Kapp Lee is a walrus haul-out, Pomor ruins, and the chance for hikes along Edgeøya.

### **Day 8: Land of the Pointed Mountains**

You start the day by cruising the side fjords of the Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen, taking in the spire-like peaks: Hornsundtind rises 1,431 meters (4,695 feet), and Bautaen is a perfect illustration of why early Dutch explorers named this island Spitsbergen, meaning "pointed mountains." There are 14 sizable glaciers in this area as well as opportunities for spotting seals, beluga whales, and polar bears.

## Day 9: Beluga Beach

Today you land on Ahlstrandhalvøya, at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden. Here piles of beluga skeletons, the remains of 19th century whale slaughter, are a haunting reminder of the consequences of rampant exploitation. Fortunately belugas were not hunted into extinction, and you have a good chance of coming across a pod. Cruising into Bellsund during the afternoon, you can then explore tundra at the head of the fjord, where reindeer like to feed.

## Day 10: Journey's End in Longyearbyen

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. You disembark in Longyearbyen for your flight home, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

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## M/V PLANCIUS

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The ice-strengthened vessel Plancius is an ideal vessel for polar expedition cruises in the Arctic and Antarctic. [Full ship info >>](#)

## ACTIVITIES YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN

### Polar Diving

500 USD

5 places left



#### **Dive into the beautiful blue deeps.**

If you're searching for a way to expand your diving experience, join us on one of our diving cruises. Experienced divers will have the chance to glide through the amazing blue waters of the Arctic or Antarctic.

## CABINS & PRICES

### Quadruple Porthole



- 1 porthole
- 2 upper & lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair
- Flatscreen TV
- Telephone and Internet connection
- Hair dryer
- Ample storage space

This cabin is suitable for families traveling with children, or passengers who do not require a twin or more luxurious cabin



Sharing berth

Share your cabin with others for the best price

4900 USD



Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

19600 USD

## Triple Porthole



1 porthole  
1 upper berth & 2 lower berths  
Private shower & toilet  
Desk & chair  
Flatscreen TV  
Telephone and Internet connection  
Hair dryer  
Ample storage space  
This cabin is suitable for families traveling with children, or passengers who do not require a twin or more luxurious cabin



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

6000 USD



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

18000 USD

## Twin Porthole



1 porthole  
2 lower berths  
Private shower & toilet  
Desk & chair  
Flatscreen TV  
Telephone and Internet connection  
Hair dryer  
Ample storage space



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

7000 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

11900 USD



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

14000 USD



## Twin Window



1 window  
2 lower berths  
Private shower & toilet  
Desk & chair  
Flatscreen TV  
Telephone and Internet connection  
Hair dryer  
Ample storage space



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

7450 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

12665 USD



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

14900 USD

## Twin Deluxe



2 windows  
2 lower berths  
Private shower & toilet  
Desk & chair  
Flatscreen TV  
Telephone and Internet connection  
Hair dryer  
Ample storage space  
These cabins are corner cabins and are slightly more spacious than the normal twin porthole/window cabins



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

7900 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

13430 USD



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

15800 USD

## Superior



- 2 windows
- 1 double bed
- 1 sofa bed
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair
- Flatscreen TV
- Telephone and Internet connection
- Refrigerator
- Coffee & tea maker
- Hair dryer
- Ample storage space



### Single cabin

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

15045 USD



### Complete cabin

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

17700 USD