



TAILOR-MADE DESTINATIONS

## **Cleaning the Shores – Special Arctic Itinerary** *June 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 – North Spitsbergen*



*Garbage from the ocean is piling up on the shores of Spitsbergen, in the Svalbard archipelago. This litter is hazardous for the wildlife and greatly mars the beauty of the Svalbard coastline. This unique cruise is intended to give you a chance to help with the process of cleaning the shores and beaches of north Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet, as part of the 'Clean Up Svalbard' initiative. Supported by the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) and with a contribution from the Governor of Svalbard, you will travel on board a cruise ship carrying approx. 100 guests, and, with the aid of your fellow passengers, take part in daily shore cleaning expeditions.*

*During the cruise, you will be given all the necessary equipment and guidance to ensure that the shore cleaning expeditions are fun and productive! Often it will not be possible to clean a certain area, because of roaming bears, and we will have to adjust the plans accordingly, which makes for an exciting and unpredictable itinerary – and a unique twist on a traditional cruise holiday!*

*This itinerary follows a popular cruise route around West Spitsbergen to Nordaustlandet. The cleaning activities form part of the cruise, but the itinerary is also intended to give you a chance to take in the beautiful scenery and wildlife of the region. In addition to the shore cleaning excursions, optional activities during the cruise will include zodiac cruises and snow hikes.*

### **Day 1: Longyearbyen**

Arrive in Longyearbyen, the de facto capital of Spitsbergen, Svalbard. The ship departs this evening, and most flights into Spitsbergen arrive early in the day, giving you time to explore the town and its sights, such as the polar museum.

#### **Your Financial Protection**

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

### **Day 2: Raudfjord and Lingbukta**

We visit the eastern shores of Raudfjord and Lingbukta on the north coast of West Spitsbergen, beautiful fjords dominated by spectacular glaciers where we often see polar bears. In the evening we will sail by the island of Moffen where a big herd of Walrus can be found.



### **Day 3 – 6: West Spitsbergen to Nordaustlandet**

We continue east through Beverleysundet and to Nordaustlandet, passing key locations of the 1898 Swedish and Russian Arc of Meridian expedition, and the fateful Nobile expedition of 1927, along the way.

As we approach Nordaustlandet, expect spectacular views of the ice cap. From Nordaustlandet, we continue north to Phippsøya, the largest island in the Sjuøyane archipelago. This is the northernmost area we will reach during the expedition, 81 degrees north and barely 500 miles from the North Pole. Many polar bear inhabit this region, meaning you have good chances of sightings.

**Clean-up missions:** During the course of the next four days, you will have the option to head ashore on clean-up missions. The precise location of these missions will depend on weather conditions and wildlife movements, but we will focus on the coastline around Nordaustlandet. The missions will take place twice daily, accommodate 50 people each (roughly half the ship's capacity), and will be accompanied by specialist guides. These missions are optional, and you do not have to take part every day. As well as giving you a chance to contribute to the 'Clean up Svalbard' program, the missions will also allow you to set foot on remote regions of the Spitsbergen coastline, and explore some of the most beautiful scenery.



### Days 7-8: Return via West Spitsbergen coast

We begin to retrace our route westward, keeping an eye out for polar bears and the rarely-sighted bowhead whale (Greenland) as we cruise through the pack ice.

About 40 nautical miles west of Spitsbergen we sail along the edge of the continental shelf, where in summer fin whale can be seen in the upwellings along the Spitsbergen coast. At the mouth of the Kongsfjord we also have a good chance of sighting minke whale.

### Day 9: Prins Karls Forland

Today we return to Longyearbyen, stopping at the northern tip of the island of Forlandet, where we can expect to see many harbour seal, the only of their kind found in Spitsbergen. This region was also once home to many polar bear, and it is still possible to see remnants of the polar bear hunting era, such as set guns and old bear traps. Walrus are also commonly sighted.



We arrive at Longyearbyen overnight, ready to disembark in the morning.

### Day 10: Departure

Disembark at Longyearbyen in the morning where you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home.

#### Price Guide:

The cost of this cruise is from **£2,335 per person** in a quad cabin (triple cabins from **£2,850**; twin from **£3,335**). Return flights cost in the region of **£450** per person. For further information and to enquire about availability, please contact [Sarah@ganeandmarshall.com](mailto:Sarah@ganeandmarshall.com).

#### Includes:

- All meals while aboard the ship
- Lectures by noted naturalists and experienced guides
- Return airport transfers to/from the ship
- All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac
- Free use of rubber boots and snow shoes
- All service taxes and charges

#### Excludes:

- International flights
- Pre- and post-travel arrangements
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes
- Meals ashore
- Insurance
- All items of a personal nature
- Tips