North Spitsbergen Wildlife Cruise
Polar Bear Special

Sail to Raudfjord on the north coast of West Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord dominated by spectacular glaciers and favoured by winged and bearded seal, on this 8-day Arctic voyage. The cliffs and shoreline of the fjord support thriving seabird colonies and surprisingly rich vegetation, which flourishes in sheltered spots. Sailing along the pack-ice of North Spitsbergen will also provide you with wonderful opportunities to spot the king of the Arctic, the Polar Bear.

Day by day Itinerary

Day 1: Set sail from Longyearbyen
Arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Svalbard archipelago.

Before boarding the ship and setting sail there will be an opportunity to stroll around this former mining town, whose fascinating parish church and polar museum are well worth visiting.

In the early evening, the ship will sail out of Isfjorden, where, in the mouth of the fjord, you may be lucky enough to see your first Minke whale.

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
We sail to Raudfjord, just off the coast of West Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord dominated by spectacular glaciers and favoured by ringed and bearded seal.

The cliffs and shoreline of the fjord also support thriving seabird colonies and a surprisingly rich vegetation, which flourishes in sheltered spots. Polar Bear are often seen here.

*Highlights of day 2: Stunning Arctic wildlife, including potential polar bear sightings and ringed and bearded seals.*

Day 3: Liefdefjorden
Weather-permitting, we sail to the mouth of Liefdefjorden and go ashore for a walk on the tundra island of Andøya. Many Common Eider and Pink-footed Goose nest here, and the rarer King Eider may also be seen.

Setting sail once more, we continue to cruise through Liefdefjorden and alongside the 5km-long face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favourite feeding spot for Kittiwake, which occur in their thousands. Polar Bears, too, are sometimes seen on the glacier.

*Highlights of day 3: Monaco Glacier, Andøya and its enormous geese colonies*

Day 4: Hinlopen Strait
Today we sail into the Hinlopen Strait, where we have a chance of spotting a Blue Whale. We'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in our zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet, dotted with thousands of Brünnich’s Guillemot.

On the east side of Hinlopenstrait, we’ll attempt a landing at Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet, home to Reindeer, breeding Ivory Gulls, and Walruses.

*Highlights of day 4: Bearded Seals, Ringed Seals, Polar Bears and Ivory Gulls*
Day 5: Seven Islands
We continue to Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands – 81 degrees north and just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole.

Polar Bears inhabit this region, along with Ivory Gulls. The ship may sit for several hours in the pack ice, before turning west again.

*Highlights of day 5: Proximity to the geographic North Pole, and its stunning landscape of pack ice and thin ice sheets*

![Polar Bear](image1)

Day 6: Retracing our route Westwards
Retracing our route westwards, we journey through and alongside the pack ice, all the while keeping watch for Polar Bears and the elusive Greenland Whale (bowhead).

About 100 nautical miles west of Spitsbergen we sail along the edge of the continental shelf, where Fin Whale forage in summer in the upwellings along the Spitsbergen banks. West of the mouth of the Kongsfjord we have good chances of seeing the great Humpback Whale.

*Highlights of day 6: Whale-watching (with luck!); peacefully sailing along the edge of the continental shelf.*

Day 7: Prins Karls Forland
We land at the northern tip of Prins Karls Forland, near Fuglehuken, where Dutch navigator William Barentsz is believed to have set foot on Spitsbergen for the first time. Seabirds nest on the cliffs, and along the coast we will almost certainly see harbour seal (the only population of them found in Spitsbergen). Here we can also observe the remains of the era of polar bear hunting, in the form of the demolished set guns and bear traps that dot the coast. At the opposite side of Forlandsundet, in Sarstangen, is a haul-out place for the walrus colony.

![Walruses](image2)
Alternatively, if the weather dictates we may instead sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden and land at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on its cliffs and Arctic Fox search the cliff base for fallen eggs and chicks, while Spitsbergen Reindeer graze the relatively luxuriant vegetation.

At night-time, we arrive in Longyearbyen.

*Highlights of day 7: Physical reminders of the era of polar bear hunting, and remarkable wildlife*

**Day 8: Disembark in Longyearbyen**

Disembark in Longyearbyen, the administrative centre of Spitsbergen. A bus transfer will be arranged from the pier to the airport on the day of disembarkation.

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**Price Guide (2018):**
*Rates start from £3,965 (£4,400) per person in a shared twin cabin (triple cabin from £3,515/€3,900; quad cabin from £2,810/€3,150), and subject to availability at the time of booking. For a full list of departure dates and prices, please contact Sarah@ganeandmarshall.com.*

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<td>o All meals while aboard the ship</td>
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<td>o Lectures by noted naturalists and experienced guides</td>
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<td>o All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac</td>
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