Svalbard Islands

White Giants of Svalbard

June 22 to July 5, 2027

Polar Bear
© Milo Burcham

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Embark on an unforgettable adventure to one of the world's last great wildernesses—the Svalbard Archipelago. Just 600 miles from the North Pole, this remote realm offers stark beauty and boundless exploration. Cruise past sheer-sided fjords, massive glaciers, and drifting ice floes. This is where you can observe polar bears roaming in their natural environment. You'll also watch for walruses hauled out on the ice, reindeer crossing the tundra, and whales surfacing in the frigid seas. Under the glow of the midnight sun, every hour reveals new wonders in this untamed and exhilarating Arctic landscape.

WHY CHOOSE THIS EXPEDITION?

- **Witness Iconic Arctic Wildlife:** Observe polar bears, walruses, Arctic foxes, and Svalbard reindeer thriving in their pristine habitats.
- **Explore Breathtaking Scenery:** Take in the majesty of immense glaciers, sparkling fjords, and striking ice formations beneath the endless light of the midnight sun.
- **Enjoy Unique Adventures:** Venture into secluded bays and winding channels by Zodiac, exploring hidden Arctic landscapes and lively seabird colonies.
- **Capture Stunning Moments**: Capture the Arctic's beauty with tips and insights from a professional wildlife photographer seasoned in polar expeditions.
- **Explore in a Small Group:** Experience the Arctic aboard a small expedition vessel with only 12 guests, ensuring personalized attention and the flexibility to maximize each encounter.

LEADER: TBD

DAYS: 14, including estimated travel time. 10 nights aboard the ship.

GROUP SIZE: 12.

COST: $15,400 per person, single occupancy for lower deck cabins and double occupancy for main deck cabins, not including airfare. See the *Costs* section on page 5.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Jun 22	**Travel to Norway.**		
Jun 23	**Arrive in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway.** Arrive from home with time to explore this charming gateway to the Arctic Circle.	Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen, Longyearbyen	—
Jun 24	**Board your Ship.** Spend the morning exploring the town of Longyearbyen, then board your ship and set off to discover the breathtaking Arctic wilderness.	Aboard your ship	B, D
Jun 25–Jul 3	**Explore the Svalbard Archipelago.** Voyage throughout the Svalbard Archipelago with Zodiac cruises and landings for unbelievable Arctic photography and wildlife viewing in the pristine Arctic environment.		B, L, D
Jul 4	**Leave for Home.** Disembark in Longyearbyen and say farewell to the Arctic as you board your flights home, taking with you unforgettable memories of a once-in-a-lifetime journey.		B
Jul 5	**Arrive home.**		

LEADERS

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. Two leaders will provide a range of expertise for your trip.

SHIP

We chose the most well-equipped and comfortable vessel in the small ship class. The ice-strengthened hull and shallow draft enables you to explore and photograph channels and inlets other ships simply cannot navigate. The ship is equipped with Zodiacs for cruising and shore excursions. Enjoy excellent wildlife and scenic viewing from a large, dual-level observation deck at the front, and large windows in the social areas. The spacious and comfortable lounge provides room to relax, gather socially, edit photos, and attend informative lectures. You have your own private cabin for lower deck cabins (or shared for main deck cabins),

Svalbard Ship
© Analise Dubner

all with private bathroom facilities. With only twelve passengers, this ship is perfect for exploring places bigger ships cannot navigate. See the *Deck Plan* on page 9.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Jun 22 ~ Travel to Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway
Begin your Arctic adventure with a flight via Oslo, Norway, as you make your way to Longyearbyen, the gateway to the Svalbard Archipelago.

Atlantic Puffin
© Chris Brookheart

Jun 23 ~ Arrive in Longyearbyen
Arrive in Longyearbyen, the northernmost settlement with a thriving community, perched on Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard Archipelago. After settling into your accommodations, step outside and discover the charm of this Arctic town framed by dramatic mountain peaks. Follow trails sprinkled with early-blooming Arctic wildflowers and keep a lookout for Svalbard ptarmigan and snow buntings making their nests along the outskirts. Along the coastal flats, the calls of Common Eiders, Parasitic Jaegers, and Arctic Terns add to the sense of wild discovery. To deepen your connection with this unique region, a visit to the Svalbard Museum near the town center offers fascinating insights into both its natural wonders and rich cultural history.

Jun 24 ~ Embark on your ship
Spend the morning discovering Longyearbyen at your own pace—browse local shops, watch birdlife along the shores of Isfjorden, or visit the town's notable landmarks. In the late afternoon, board your expedition ship and settle into your cabin as your Arctic adventure officially begins. The surrounding waters are calmer than those near Antarctica, making for a smooth and comfortable cruising experience. Thanks to the Gulf Stream, Svalbard enjoys a surprisingly mild climate despite its high northern latitude.

Atlantic Puffin
© Chris Brookheart

During your voyage, you'll have plenty of opportunities for Zodiac excursions, shore landings, and wildlife observation from the ship's deck. Our expedition itineraries remain flexible to adapt to weather and sea ice conditions, ensuring you enjoy the best possible experiences. *Our small group size allows us to be patient and respectful observers, ensuring you have ample time to capture the perfect photographic moment while always prioritizing wildlife welfare and maintaining a safe, disturbance-free distance.*

Jun 25–Jul 3 ~ Voyage through the Svalbard Archipelago
Embark on a nine-day Arctic adventure through the breathtaking Svalbard Archipelago, where the Midnight Sun casts its 24-hour glow over a wild and untamed landscape. With endless daylight, every moment is a chance to witness and capture Arctic wildlife in its natural habitat. Glide past ice-strewn waters in observation of polar bears and walruses, and venture inland to glimpse Svalbard reindeer and elusive arctic foxes roaming the vibrant summer tundra. Marvel at dramatic rock formations and striking geological layers that punctuate the stark beauty of the islands. From the pristine shores to the windswept tundra, Svalbard offers a once-in-a-lifetime experience for nature enthusiasts, photographers, and adventurers eager to immerse themselves in one of the planet's most extraordinary wildernesses.

On the coastlines, visit thriving bird cliffs teeming with Black-legged Kittiwakes, Northern Fulmars, Atlantic Puffins, and Thick-billed Murres (Brünnich's Guillemots). Marine mammals, including ringed and bearded seals, are often spotted lounging on icebergs or swimming nearby. Occasionally, you may glimpse a pod of beluga whales gliding through the fjords. Inland, the tundra becomes a nesting ground for Pink-footed Geese, Barnacle Geese, and King Eiders. Be mindful of nesting shorebirds such as Red Phalaropes and Arctic Terns, as these birds can become defensive if approached too closely

Here are some handy-to-know Norwegian geography terms (as seen in many of the following place names): "bukta" means bay, "sund" means sound, "sundet" or "stretet" means channel or strait, "øy" or "øya" means island, "landet" means land or country, "breen" means glacier, and, of course, "fjord" or "fjorden" means fjord or inlet.

Liefdefjorden and Monacobreen Glacier
Cruise into Liefdefjorden to witness the expansive ice front of Monacobreen Glacier. This area is a prime location for polar bear sightings as they patrol the shores in search of prey, including seabird nests along the tundra. Thousands of kittiwakes often gather in the surrounding waters to feed, while geese graze the lush summer vegetation.

Raudfjorden
Along the northern coast of Spitsbergen, Raudfjorden deep inlets and towering glaciers create a breathtaking setting. The fjord's rich biodiversity includes thriving colonies of seabirds, ringed and bearded seals, and surprisingly verdant vegetation for such a high-latitude location.

Ytre Norskøya
Hike the lichen-covered cliffs of Ytre Norskøya, a small island with a historical whaling past and significant seabird colonies. The elevated vantage points provide excellent photography opportunities of the surrounding coastline and birdlife.

Krossfjorden and Kongsfjorden
Explore two of Spitsbergen's most beautiful fjords by Zodiac. Cruise along the majestic Fourteenth of July Glacier (Fjortende Julibreen), where the ice cliffs provide a dramatic backdrop to nesting birds and floating icebergs. Continue to Lilliehöökbreen Glacier, one of the region's largest glacier fronts, stretching an impressive 22 kilometers.

Alkhornet
Conclude your fjord explorations with a landing near Alkhornet, a towering cliff face overlooking Isfjorden. Here, arctic foxes can often be seen scavenging for food beneath the bird cliffs, while

Svalbard reindeer graze on wildflower-strewn slopes. This site offers some of the best opportunities for reindeer photography in the archipelago.

Jul 4 ~ Disembark in Longyearbyen and return travel
Arrive in Longyearbyen around 9:00 AM and disembark the ship. You may transfer directly to the airport for your departing flight or take some time to explore the town before continuing your journey home.

Jul 5 ~ Arrive home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, single occupancy on lower deck*	$15,400
Trip Cost, double occupancy on main deck	$15,400
*Single occupancy aboard the ship, but double occupancy at Longyearbyen hotel.	

Costs are per person, single occupancy for lower deck cabins and double occupancy for main deck cabins, not including airfare. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you at the hotel in Longyearbyen, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. If you prefer a single room for your included night in the hotel, it costs the same as an additional night and is subject to availability.

We cannot guarantee a specific cabin number, but if changes occur, we will assign a cabin of equal or greater value.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	$6,000
Final	January 13, 2027	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

Cancellations
Refunds are given depending on the time left before departure according to the following table. Through November 14, 2026, the cancellation fee of $300 per person can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable.

Dates	Forfeited Amount per Person
On or before November 14, 2026	$300 (see terms above)

November 15 to December 13, 2026	10% of trip cost
December 14, 2026 to January 12, 2027	40% of trip cost
On or after January 13, 2027	100% of trip cost

Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, landing fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Accommodations (double occupancy, singles extra) for the night of June 23 in Longyearbyen.
- Ten nights on board your ship.
- Meals from breakfast on June 24 through breakfast on July 4, except meals listed in *Not Included* section.
- A group transfer on June 24 from the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel to the ship and a group transfer on July 4 from the ship to the airport or into town.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Lunch on June 24 in Longyearbyen.
- Transfer from the airport to the hotel upon arrival in Longyearbyen.
- We can arrange extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about $300 to $350 per participant to be distributed equally among the ship's crew and guides.
- Mandatory emergency evacuation insurance.
- Optional trip cancellation insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Traveler Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris
Email: info@cheesemans.com
WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330
Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

OTHER DETAILS

Climate
You will visit the Arctic during its summer with 24 hours of daylight. Weather patterns may be highly variable, so bring appropriate attire and gear to handle a mix of conditions including wind, snow, rain, and sun. Expect temperatures in the 40s°F (4 to 8°C) during the day and in the 30s° (0 to 4°C) at night, but weather fronts can cause temperatures to either drop further or rise to the 50s and low 60s°F (10 to 17°C).

Fitness Level
You should be able to embark and disembark from the Zodiacs using a six-foot ladder, with staff assisting both above and below. Once ashore, you will also need to be able to get in and out of the Zodiacs onto the beach. The trip offers a variety of activities, ranging from easy, short walks to longer, more challenging hikes for those who wish to be more active. Please reach out to us if you have any health concerns that might make participation difficult.

Motion Sickness
Don't let a fear of motion sickness keep you away! Even those who have experienced seasickness reported that the incredible wildlife and overall experience were well worth the temporary discomfort. If you are susceptible to seasickness or are concerned that you might be, please come prepared! The key to avoiding seasickness is to act before you experience nausea. Do your own research and consult your doctor before taking any medications. A good night of sleep, eating well, limiting alcohol, and using your favorite seasickness remedy is sufficient for most travelers. Find more information on our Coping with Seasickness webpage (this information is applicable to any form of motion sickness) and contact us if you have any questions.

Flights
Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (LYR) anytime on June 24.
- Depart from Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (LYR) after 11:00am on July 4, as you disembark from the ship at 9:00 AM and we recommend at least one hour to check in before departure.

Terms and Conditions
Read our current Terms and Conditions.

Conservation
Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Ecotourism and Conservation for Svalbard**.
- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral**.
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip**: We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy carbon calculator and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.

FAQS

Why travel on a small ship?
With only twelve passenger cabins, our ship is smaller than most ships in Svalbard, allowing you to travel farther into smaller inlets than other ships. Our small group size gives you the flexibility to seize the moment and enjoy special wildlife encounters. With two leaders and only twelve passengers, you will receive plenty of individual attention. And, with two Zodiacs, you have plenty of room for you and your photography gear.

Why do we cruise in June and July?
June and July mark the height of Svalbard's brief but remarkably productive Arctic summer. Alongside opportunities to spot polar bears, these months bring peak wildlife activity: large bird colonies gather, wildflowers begin their short blooming season, and Arctic fox families may be seen with their newest pups. Walrus haul-out sites become accessible, and the summer's melting pack ice opens up far northern fjords and coastlines that remain unreachable during the winter and early spring.

What are the new environmental regulations in Svalbard, and how do they affect expeditions?
Starting January 1, 2025, Norway implemented stricter environmental regulations to protect Svalbard's fragile Arctic ecosystem. These measures include restricting landings to 43 designated sites, tightening drone regulations, reducing speeds near wildlife, and increasing viewing distances—such as 300–500 meters for polar bears, depending on the season. Our small-ship expeditions, limited to just 12 guests, continue to access all permitted sites, allowing for meaningful exploration while ensuring the region remains well protected.

How do these regulations promote sustainable Arctic tourism?
The updated measures reduce stress on wildlife, protect sensitive habitats, and prioritize low-impact travel. Restrictions on speed, sea ice navigation, and onshore activities help preserve Svalbard's pristine wilderness. Our conservation-focused approach already aligns with these standards, ensuring visitors experience the Arctic's untouched beauty while contributing to its long-term protection.

DECK PLAN

Deck plan and cabin sizes are not to scale and shows the number of beds, not actual bed arrangement.
Cabins 101, 102, 107, and 108 have one twin bed with a private bath.
Cabins 103–106, 109, 110, 201, and 202 have one double bed with a private bath.