

# Svalbard Islands

## *Polar Bears and Arctic Wonders*

June 10 to 23, 2028



Polar Bear  
© Ken & May Campbell

## SAFARI OVERVIEW

---

Set out on an unforgettable Arctic expedition to the legendary **Svalbard Archipelago**, one of the world's last true polar frontiers, located just 600 miles from the North Pole. This remote High Arctic wilderness is renowned for dramatic fjords, towering glaciers, sculpted icebergs, and extraordinary Arctic wildlife encounters that define the ultimate Arctic cruise experience. Explore it all aboard an intimate small ship carrying just 12 passengers, offering a truly immersive expedition experience where every landing, every sighting, and every moment feels personal and unhurried. Cruise through pristine Arctic waters and perhaps see polar bears in the wild, walrus hauled out on ice floes, reindeer grazing across the tundra, and whales surfacing in nutrient-rich Arctic seas, offering exceptional opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography. Under the glow of the midnight sun, enjoy extended days of exploration with Zodiac excursions and guided hikes across untouched polar landscapes. Whether you are seeking a comfortable Arctic cruise, a wildlife-focused expedition, or an immersive adventure travel experience, Svalbard delivers breathtaking scenery, rare biodiversity, and the thrill of authentic exploration in one of the most remote destinations on Earth.

### WHY CHOOSE THIS EXPEDITION?

- **Encounter Iconic Arctic Wildlife:** Observe polar bears, walrus, Arctic foxes, and Svalbard reindeer thriving in their pristine High Arctic habitat, with exceptional opportunities for wildlife viewing.
- **Discover Spectacular Polar Landscapes:** Cruise past towering glaciers, shimmering fjords, and dramatic ice formations illuminated by the magical 24-hour midnight sun.

- **Embark on a True Arctic Adventure:** Explore remote inlets and narrow straits by Zodiac, accessing hidden corners of the Arctic and vibrant seabird colonies alive with activity.
- **Elevate Your Wildlife Photography:** Refine your Arctic photography skills with guidance from a professional wildlife photographer experienced in polar expeditions.
- **Enjoy an Intimate Small-Ship Experience:** Travel aboard a small expedition vessel limited to just 12 guests, ensuring personalized attention, flexibility, and deeper immersion in the Arctic wilderness.

**LEADERS:** TBD

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

**GROUP SIZE:** 12.

**COST:** \$16,600 per person, single occupancy for lower deck cabins and double occupancy for main deck cabins, not including airfare. See the *Costs* section on page 6.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Jun 10	<b>Travel to Norway.</b>		
Jun 11	<b>Arrive in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway.</b> Journey from home and immerse yourself in the enchanting character of this Arctic Circle frontier town.	Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen, Longyearbyen	—
Jun 12	<b>Board your Ship.</b> Explore Longyearbyen at your leisure this morning, then board your ship and head out into the spectacular Arctic wilderness beyond.	Aboard your ship	B, D
Jun 13–21	<b>Explore the Svalbard Archipelago.</b> Every day is an adventure in the remote reaches of the Svalbard Archipelago. Zodiac cruises, ship-based wildlife viewing, and shore landings fill your hours with discovery — all under the endless glow of the Midnight Sun. Dramatic fjords, towering glacier fronts, and a pristine polar wilderness provide the backdrop for unforgettable wildlife encounters and photography at every turn.		B, L, D
Jun 22	<b>Leave for Home.</b> Disembark in Longyearbyen and begin your journey home, the memories of your Arctic voyage yours to keep forever.		B
Jun 23	<b>Arrive home.</b>		

## ENHANCE YOUR TRIP

---

- Continue your journey on our [Finland trip](#) from **June 22 to July 3, 2028**.

## 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 best-equipped and most comfortable vessel in the small-ship class. The ice-strengthened hull and shallow draft enable you to explore and photograph channels and inlets that other ships simply cannot navigate. The ship is equipped with Zodiacs for cruising and shore excursions. Enjoy excellent wildlife and scenic views from a large, dual-level observation deck at the front and from 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), 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 10.



Svalbard Ship  
© Analise Dubner

## DETAILED ITINERARY

---

### Jun 10 ~ 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.

### Jun 11 ~ Arrive in Longyearbyen

Arrive in Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost thriving community, clinging to the rugged shores of Spitsbergen in the heart of the Svalbard Archipelago. Settle in, then step outside to explore a town unlike any other — framed by dramatic peaks and threaded with trails where Arctic wildflowers are just beginning to bloom. Svalbard Ptarmigan and Snow Buntings nest along the outskirts, while along the coastal flats you find Common Eiders, Parasitic Jaegers, and Arctic Terns. Please do not walk away from roads and developed areas in Longyearbyen, as bears could be nearby. Longyearbyen is home to only 2,600 people, and at 78°N, it is the northernmost town in the world. Round out your first day with a visit to the Svalbard Museum, where the region's natural history and cultural heritage come vividly to life.



Bearded Seal  
© Roy Robins-Brown

### Jun 12 ~ Embark on your ship

Spend your last morning ashore exploring Longyearbyen at your own pace — whether that means browsing local shops, scanning the shores of Isfjorden for birdlife, or taking in the town's landmarks. Come late afternoon, board your expedition ship and settle in as the Arctic adventure begins in earnest. These waters are calmer than those near Antarctica, and thanks to the moderating effect of the Gulf Stream, Svalbard's climate is far milder than its latitude might suggest.

Days at sea bring a steady rhythm of Zodiac excursions, shore landings, and on-deck wildlife watching. Itineraries flex with the weather and ice, always chasing the best conditions, while the intimacy of a small group means there's never a rush — just the quiet patience of watching, waiting, and capturing the Arctic on its own terms.



Arctic Tern  
© Ken & Mary Campbell

### Jun 13–21 ~ Voyage through the Svalbard Archipelago

Nine days. Twenty-four hours of daylight. And a wilderness unlike anything else on Earth. The Svalbard Archipelago unfolds under the endless glow of the Midnight Sun — a vast, untamed landscape where polar bears pick their way along ice-strewn shores, walrus haul out on remote beaches, and Svalbard reindeer graze the vibrant summer tundra alongside the elusive Arctic fox. Dramatic rock formations rise from the water's edge, their striking geological layers telling a story hundreds of millions of years in the making.

The coastlines are alive with seabirds — Black-legged Kittiwakes, Northern Fulmars, Atlantic Puffins, and Thick-billed Murres crowding the cliffs in breathtaking numbers. Ringed and bearded seals lounge on drifting icebergs, and beluga whales occasionally glide silently through the fjords. Inland, the tundra hums with nesting activity, with Pink-footed Geese, Barnacle Geese, and King Eiders raising their young across the open landscape. For wildlife lovers, photographers, and those drawn to the edges of the world, Svalbard delivers an experience that is simply without equal.



Polar Bear  
© Roy Robins-Brown

*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.



Puffins  
© Roy Robins-Brown

### **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 Lilliehöökbrean 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.

### **Jun 22 ~ Disembark in Longyearbyen and return travel**

Arrive in Longyearbyen at approximately 9:00 AM and disembark. Those with onward flights may transfer directly to the airport, while others are welcome to spend a final hour or two exploring the town before heading home.

### **Jun 23 ~ Arrive home**

## COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

---

### Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, single occupancy on lower deck*	\$16,600
Trip Cost, double occupancy on main deck	\$16,600
*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	\$7,000
Final	January 2, 2028	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 4, 2027, 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 4, 2027	\$300 (see terms above)
November 5 to December 4, 2027	10% of trip cost
December 5, 2027 to January 1, 2028	40% of trip cost
On or after January 2, 2028	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 11 in Longyearbyen.

- Ten nights on board your ship.
- Meals from breakfast on June 12 through breakfast on June 22, except meals listed in *Not Included* section.
- A group transfer on June 12 from the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel to the ship and a group transfer on June 22 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 12 in Longyearbyen.
- Transfer from the airport to the hotel upon arrival in Longyearbyen.
- We can arrange extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Gratuities.
- 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](mailto: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

This is an active expedition requiring good health and mobility. Guests must be able to walk unassisted for at least one mile over rough terrain, including rocky beaches, ice, and snow. Embarkation and shore landings are by Zodiac, and you must be able to board and disembark using a six-foot ladder, with staff assisting above and below, as well as step in and out of the Zodiacs onto the beach. Rides can be bumpy, conditions variable, and

sea spray is possible. Once ashore, activities range from short, easy walks to longer, more challenging hikes for those who wish to be more active. Weather may include wind, rain, and snow, and while seas are often calm, rough conditions are possible. This voyage is not suitable for guests' using wheelchairs or crutches, and in Longyearbyen guests must be able to climb aircraft stairs, as jetways are not available. Please reach out if you have any health concerns that could 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.

**Please wait to book your flights** until you receive confirmation from your Coordinator that the minimum number of participants has been met to operate the trip. If you choose to book flights before receiving this confirmation, we strongly recommend purchasing flight cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

#### Flights you book

- Arrive in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (LYR) anytime on June 11.
- Depart from Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (LYR) after 11:00am on June 22, as you disembark from the ship at 9:00 AM and we recommend at least one hour to check in before departure. **If you are continuing on our [Finland trip June 22 to July 3, 2028](#)**, see the *Flights* section in its itinerary for arrival information.

### **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 our Journey Together:** From the moment you arrive to the day you depart; we take responsibility for offsetting the carbon footprint of your on-the-ground experience. For your travel to and from the destination, we encourage a shared commitment to reducing impact—whether through airline programs, our [carbon calculator](#) and donating to Sustainable Travel International, or an offsetting partner that aligns with your values.

## 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?**

June marks the height of Svalbard's brief but remarkably productive Arctic summer. Alongside opportunities to spot polar bears, this month brings 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 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?**

In 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.