

GREETINGS I-ADVENTURERS

Join Us for an Extra Special Trip of a Lifetime!

May 22 to June 3, 2025

Explore Oslo, Norway and then
Cruise the Svalbard Archipelago on a small ship



Late spring, when the sea ice is melting and the polar bears are emerging



We'll start in Oslo, where the Opera Hall provides a beautiful background to the floating saunas in the harbor.



We have a choice of two ships — If you're seriously considering joining us, read on and help us decide.



M/S Quest - 50 passengers



M/S Sjøveien - 12 passengers

DRAFT ITINERARY

May 22 to June 3, 2025

May 22 (Day 1): Meet in **Oslo** at our hotel for cocktails and to go over the itinerary. This will be followed by a delicious dinner. For those who arrive early and want to get out the kinks from the flight, the city center of Oslo has floating saunas, from which you can jump in the fjord.

May 23 (Day 2): Explore **Oslo** by bike then enjoy the city's impressive art and culture scene including the Vigeland Sculpture Park, the Viking Museum, the Fram Museum and the new Munch Museum. Casual dinner together in Grünerløkka, a neighborhood known for its vibrant street life and restaurants.

May 24 (Day 3): Flight from Oslo to **Longyearbyen** in the Svalbard Archipelago. Dinner followed by a presentation about our ship, the cruise route, Longyearbyen, the Global Seed Bank, and the Arctic research taking place in the region.

At a latitude of 78 degrees north, Longyearbyen is the northernmost city in the world. It's a unique and fascinating destination due to its extreme location, distinctive lifestyle, and striking natural environment. People from 53 different countries live in Longyearbyen, which has a total population of 2,400 people.

In addition to tourism, research and education is another important industry. Students from all over the world come to study at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), which focuses on Arctic research in the fields of biology, geology, geophysics and technology. Unbelievably, considering the remoteness and size, there are excellent restaurants in Longyearbyen.

Anyone leaving town must be with someone who is carrying a firearm since polar bears are never far away.

May 25 (Day 4): Afternoon hike including the area of the Global Seed Vault. The Seed Vault safeguards more than 1.2 million types of seeds from almost every country in the world, with room for millions more. Its purpose is to provide a backup gene bank collection to secure the foundation of our future food supply. The seeds are in deep storage using a former coal mine.



Global Seed Bank – Longyearbyen

May 26 to June 1 (Days 5 to 11): Let's **cruise the Svalbard Archipelago!** It's spring in Svalbard, and it's an awe-inspiring experience to be there when the archipelago comes to life.



In May the Arctic fox and the Svalbard reindeer still wear their winter coats, walrus are often seen resting on the ice floes, and if we're lucky, we might see the polar bear hunting for seals. Birdlife is beginning to return to Svalbard, and it's a good time to see king eiders and rock ptarmigans. The fairytale winter landscape is dominated by glittering ice formations, snow-capped mountains, fjord ice, and pastel-colored skies.

By June, the midnight sun reigns supreme, bird colonies teem with life, and the dramatic mountain ranges are beautifully snow-capped. The ice still keeps the islands in its grip and we can admire the ever-changing ice formations.

We will be in a part of the world where we are completely dependent on the ice and weather conditions. Our aim is to head out on Zodiacs cruises every day, and to go ashore when the opportunity arises. Our exact itinerary will depend on these factors and on the wildlife we encounter, but here are some examples of places we may visit:



Alkhornet

At the entrance of Isfjorden is the characteristic cliff of Alkhornet. We will go ashore to enjoy the beautiful tundra and its birdlife, including barnacle geese, Brünnich's guillemots, glaucous gulls, snow buntings and tens of thousands of kittiwakes. Arctic foxes are sometimes seen in the rock crevices around the mountain and with a bit of luck we might see some scurrying around, frantically looking for food.

Prins Karls Forland

This narrow strip of land is covered by a magnificent and snow-covered mountain chain. The island is also home to many seabirds and harbor seals.

Fantastic fjords

Svalbard offers the visitor countless spectacular fjords. During our cruise we will explore some of them such as: Liefdefjorden, meaning "The fjord of love", is lined with snow-capped mountain peaks and here we hope to cruise along the face of the spectacular Monaco Glacier. Many common eiders and pink-footed geese nest in the area and if we are lucky we may see the rare king eider. In Krossfjorden we can admire the beautifully sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier and listen to the sounds of the large numbers of kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots that nest on the nearby cliffs. Raudfjorden is an area of immense natural beauty – dominated by magnificent glaciers. It is also a favourite spot of seals and the bird cliffs are abuzz with activity. Kongsfjorden is home to the scientific village of Ny-Ålesund. It was from here that Amundsen and Nobile set out on their heroic expeditions to the North Pole.

Danskøya

Danskøya was the starting point for two of the most daring attempts to reach the North Pole. The Swedish explorer Andrée made an attempt with a hydrogen balloon and American journalist Wellman started with an airship. Interesting remnants of these Arctic expeditions can still be seen here.

Bellsund

At the beautiful Vårsolbukta in Bellsund little auks nest by the tens of thousands. We go ashore and walk across the tundra to get a closer look at these charming birds.

Hornsund

The majestic Hornsund consists of several magnificent fjords along the west coast of Spitsbergen, where huge glaciers calve out shimmering blue ice. This is one of the favourite haunts of some of Svalbard's polar bears, and we may be lucky enough to spot one on the fjord ice.



June 2 (Day 12): The ship returns to land, and we spend the night in Longyearbyen.

June 3 (Day 13):

Option 1 - Fly to the Oslo Airport to end the trip

Option 2 - For those who love trains and want to see more of the mainland of Norway, there will be an optional add-on. Where we go will be determined separately with those who are interested.



Glaciers flowing into the fjord outside of Longyearbyen

Which Ship do you Prefer?

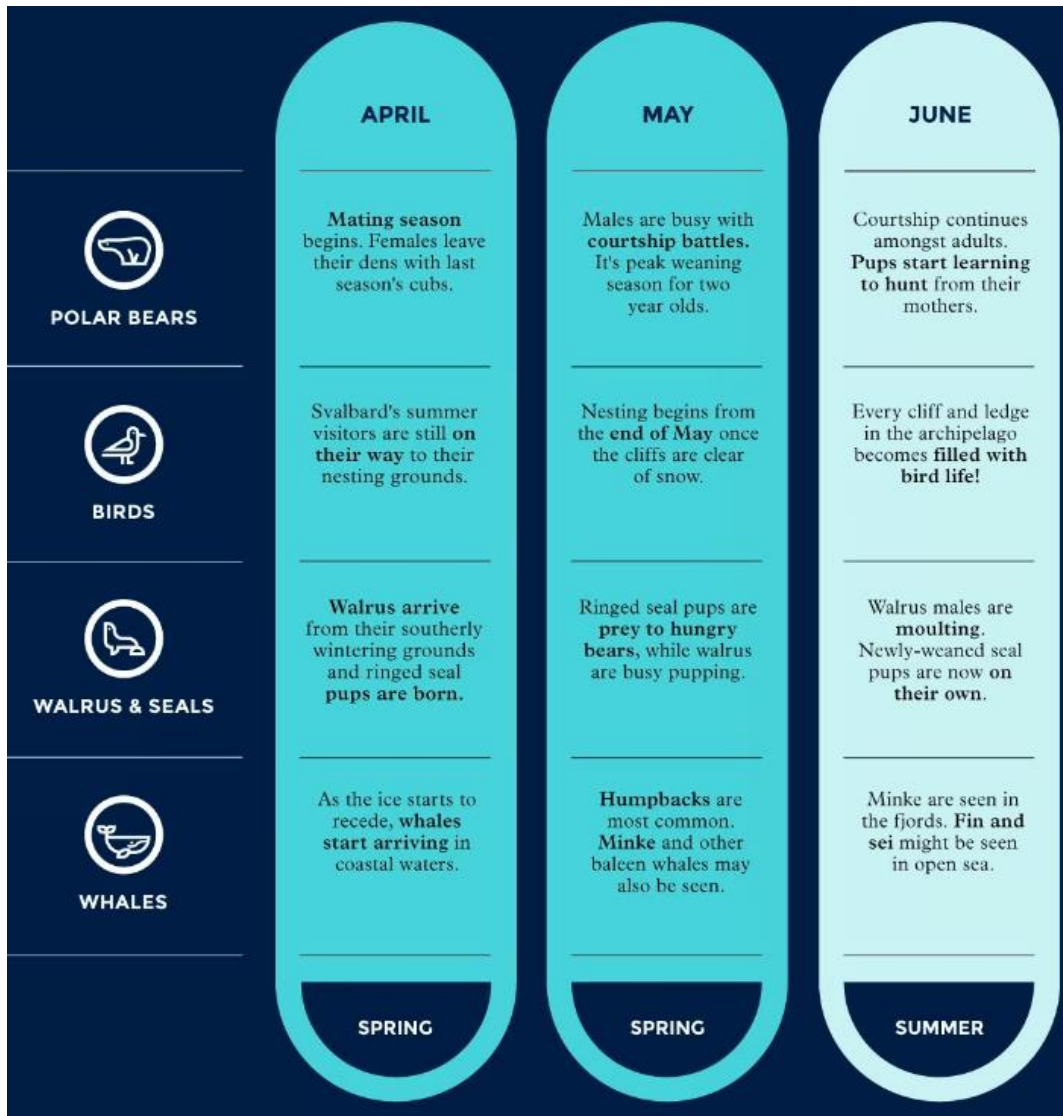
While expedition ships prioritize functionality and often have a more casual atmosphere compared to luxury liners, both of our options still provide comfortable accommodations and amenities to ensure that you will have an enjoyable journey.



	M/S Quest	M/S Sjøveien
Cruising Dates	May 26 to June 2, 2025 (7 nights)	
Starting/Ending	Longyearbyen	
No. Of Passengers	50	12
Cost	Approx. \$12,700 for double occupancy (final price will be dependent on ship stateroom chosen). Single supplement available for an additional fee.	Approx. \$14,200 for double occupancy (final price will be dependent on ship stateroom chosen). Single supplement available for an additional fee.
Exclusivity	There will be other people on the ship other than our group, but anyone who comes on a trip like this is likely to be interesting! However, we will not have any input on our route.	Just us if we can get 12 people. This would be a completely custom experience; we can provide input about where we want to go and what we want to do.
Wildlife Viewing	Opportunities for wildlife viewing, both from the ship and during excursions using zodiacs, generally twice each day.	Opportunities for wildlife viewing, both from the ship and during excursions using zodiacs, generally twice each day. With a smaller ship it's possible we may be able to get into some areas that are less accessible for the larger boat. Also, loading and unloading the zodiacs will be quicker each time we go out since there will be fewer passengers to load.
Hiking	We will take the opportunity to hike whenever the conditions allow us to safely get to shore. Hiking groups are divided into three groups based on ability: easy, moderate and strenuous.	We will take the opportunity to hike whenever the conditions allow us to safely get to shore. We will generally hike as one large group, or we can split into two smaller groups.
Guides	5 professional guides (1 per every 10 people)	2 professional guides (1 per every 6 people)
Hot Tub	No hot tub	Hot tub on deck

Our Dates

We will be spending 8 days / 7 nights on our ship, departing Longyearbyen on May 26. Both boats are currently available then. This is the magical transition time in the Arctic, when the freezing temperatures of winter and spring are abating and the islands come alive with wildlife. We will still experience the true arctic, with its majestic snow-covered landscape. However, the pack ice will be breaking up enough to allow us to more easily land our zodiacs and come onto land for hiking, while the snowy cliffsides will be melting away so that the thousands of migratory birds can begin their annual nesting.



Why do we think you will love Svalbard? Because we did! (Most photos taken by Patricia and Jayson, Oct. 2023). Please let us know ASAP if you are thinking of joining us, or if you have any questions.

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