

# Around Svalbard & Kvitoya

Trip Code: PKV

Version: PKV Around Spitsbergen and Kvitoya



POLAR



GUIDED GROUP



LEISURELY



## HIGHLIGHTS

- A visit to the ice capped island of Kvitoya at the eastern extreme of the Svalbard archipelago and a chance to see the walrus colony that call this island home
- Opportunities to explore off ship daily with the Zodiac shore excursion team
- Chances to hike, and on some departures kayak, on and around the islands of Svalbard
- Surrounded by stunning Arctic wildlife including seabirds, seals, arctic foxes, and hopefully polar

bears too

### AT A GLANCE

- 10 days sailing and wildlife viewing aboard the M/V Hondius or M/V Plancius
- Join at Longyearbyen

### ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- All meals included
- 9 nights Boat

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

## Introduction

A ten day cruise around the archipelago of Svalbard (aka Spitsbergen), with an added visit to the farthest eastern island of Kvitoya.

This is an alternative version of the ['In the Realm of the Polar Bear and Ice'](#) cruise we also operate, with a variation in the middle of the trip, heading to the less visited island of Kvitoya on the far eastern edge of the archipelago. This island is almost completely covered in a solid ice cap, save for the eastern tip of the island which has been claimed by the walrus. These tusked giants haul out in their masses for a sunbathe, and hopefully we'll get chance to view them up close.

We'll visit the many and varied glaciers of the islands, including the Fourteenth of July Glacier, and the Schweigaardbreen Glacier, and see the kittiwakes wheeling through the air above the calving faces of these huge ice forms. We'll delve into the history of the world's most northerly community of Ny Alesund, and see the haunting discarded skeletons of the beluga whales that were hunted here in the 19th century. Our trip will be packed full of incredible wildlife spotting opportunities, including sunbathing walrus in huge haul outs by the sea, noisy seabird colonies with terns, auks and guillemots passing overhead in their thousands to graze on the krill and small fish of this bountiful northern ocean, and reindeer and arctic foxes carefully camouflaged against the mottled green hillsides full of hardy summertime blooms. The highlight would of course be the potential to see the Arctic's most impressive apex predator, the polar bear. Our expert guides will be on hand with eyes peeled and facts poised to make the most of your wildlife and historical experiences.

### Is this holiday for you?

This is principally a touring, sightseeing and wildlife viewing holiday, with minimal exertion required. If you choose to go ashore, you will need to make the transfers from the ship to a Zodiac and onto land. Short walks on the islands of Spitsbergen are optional and weather dependent. You should also consider that some of the classes of accommodation involve the use of bunk-beds. Whilst on deck or during excursions, you need to be prepared for cold temperatures. The itinerary remains flexible, according to the variability of the weather and sea conditions and the locations of wildlife, particularly of polar bears. On certain departures you can book kayaking, experience is essential for these kayaking excursions. All equipment is provided. Early booking is essential. Cabin upgrades are also available.

# Itinerary

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## DAY 1

### Arrive Longyearbyen, and board the M/V's Ortelius, Plancius or Hondius.

After arriving in Longyearbyen we will have a few hours to acquaint ourselves with this small but perfectly formed and very international feeling community. Initially a whaling station, and latterly a mining community, this port now relies on the tourism and conservation industries. In the evening we board our ice-strengthened ship and set sail out of Isfjorden, bound for the open waters west of Svalbard.

Meals: **D**



**Accommodation**  
Boat

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## DAY 2

### The impressive Fourteenth of July Glacier and visit Ny Alesund.

Our overnight journey north along the west coast of Svalbard brings us to Krossfjorden by morning. Conditions permitting, we'll board the Zodiac shore boats and head for the face of the Fourteenth of July Glacier and admire its icy blue white face. On the adjacent green slopes a vast array of flowers bloom, enjoying the rich soils provided from the guano expelled from the seabird nests in the cliffs above. Among these nests are kittiwakes and Brunnich's Guillemot, the former spending hours scooting through the sea foam looking for small fish to pick off should they swim too close to the surface. In the afternoon we'll continue north to Ny Alesund, the northernmost settlement on Earth. Like Longyearbyen, this was once a mining village, and is now a polar research centre. Arctic fox are known to inhabit this village and it's surrounds, opportunistically preying on the chicks of barnacle geese and arctic terns, both of which use the area as a breeding ground.

Meals: **B L D**



**Accommodation**  
Boat

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## DAY 3

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## Stop at the Seven Islands and reach 80° North!

The northernmost point of our voyage may be north of Nordaustlandet, in the Seven Islands. Here we reach 80° north, just 870 km (540 miles) from the geographic North Pole! We'll aim to spend some time here, parked among the pack ice, before wheeling around west again. Polar bears and walrus inhabit this beautiful if desolate landscape, so keep a look out for these giants of the Arctic.

Meals: **B L D**



### Accommodation

Boat

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## DAY 4

### The great glacier front of Schweigaardbreen.

Pushing east to Nordaustlandet, you reach the area where the Italian captain Sora tried to rescue the Nobile Expedition in 1928. The focal point of today's cruise is the great glacier front of Schweigaardbreen, occasionally calving with great force into the cold depths of the arctic waters. You may also land at Firkantbukta, getting the chance to gain some altitude and take a few higher-elevation photos. Alternately, you could make a Zodiac cruise near Storøya, where you might encounter walruses.

Meals: **B L D**



### Accommodation

Boat

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## DAY 5

### The ice capped island of Kvitoya.

Today we reach the easternmost point of Svalbard, and in fact the most easterly territory of Norway, the ice capped island of Kvitoya. You may have the opportunity to land at the western tip of the island at Andreeneset, where the Swedish explorer S. A. Andree and his companions met their demise back in 1897. We may also get the chance to visit the eastern tip of this island at Kraemerpynten where a large colony of walruses usually reside.

Meals: **B L D**



### Accommodation

Boat

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**DAY 6****The longest glacier in Svalbard.**

South of Nordaustlandet we will reach the former Nunatak area of Isisoya, which was once surrounded by glaciers, but is now an island surrounded by the freezing Arctic Ocean. We may also have time to visit Braswellbreen which is part of the largest ice cap in Europe, it's cliff face is around 180km long in total. It is a stunning sight made all the more incredible by it's impressive melt-water waterfalls.

Meals: **B L D**

**Accommodation**

Boat

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**DAY 7****Barentsoya's many bounties - polar bears, kittiwakes and tundra.**

After a wakeup call at 0730 (our guides take it in turns to do the wakeup call over the tannoy) and the usual amazing breakfast at 0800, we layer up our clothing and head out in the Zodiacs. The plan is to make landings in Freemansundet, though the presence of polar bears sometimes make this impossible. Potential stops on Barentsoya include the old trapper's hut at Sundneset, Kapp Waldburg's kittiwake colony, and Rindedalen where we may walk across the tundra. We might also have chance to cruise south to Diskobukta, though Kapp Lee is more likely our destination. On Kapp Lee is a walrus haul-out, Pomor ruins, and maybe a hike along Edgeoya. A jam packed day full of history, wildlife and incredible sights.

Meals: **B L D**

**Accommodation**

Boat

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**DAY 8****Land of the Pointed Mountains.**

We start the day by cruising the side fjords of the Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen. We'll take in views of the spire-like peaks of Hornsundtind (1,431m) and Bautaen, perfect illustrations of why early Dutch explorers named this island Spitsbergen, meaning "pointed mountains." There are 14 sizable glaciers in this area as well as opportunities for spotting seals, beluga whales and polar bears.

Meals: **B L D**

**Accommodation**

Boat

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**DAY 9****Bellsund's flora, fauna, and haunting history.**

Today we find ourselves in Bellsund, one of the largest fjord systems in Svalbard. The ocean currents make this area slightly warmer than other areas in the archipelago, which shows in the relatively lush vegetation. Here there are more excellent opportunities to enjoy both history and wildlife. One such possibility is Ahlstrandhalvoya, at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden, where piles of beluga skeletons can be found. These remains of 19th-century whale slaughter are a haunting reminder of the consequences of rampant exploitation. Fortunately, belugas were not hunted to extinction, and we have a good chance of coming across a pod today. Alternatively, while cruising the side fjords of Bellsund, we can explore tundra where reindeer like to feed as well as rock slopes where little auks are breeding.

Meals: **B L D**



**Accommodation**  
Boat

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**DAY 10****Departure day - Disembark at Longyearbyen.**

We disembark in the morning and transfers to the airport are provided. KE Land Only package services end with a transfer to the airport.

Meals: **B**

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# Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



## Sea Kayaking - Arctic

Going eye to eye with an inquisitive whale is a rare and special moment that will carve itself into your memory. Kayaking isn't just an outdoor adventure, it's an opportunity to experience these remote regions from another vantage point. You'll venture out to sheltered bays and areas known for calmer waters and take part in group kayaking trips led by our experienced and skilled leaders. No other activity gets you as close to the natural environment!

1 day from  
**US\$450** per person

# Holiday Information

## What's Included

- Expert expedition staff and sailing staff
- All accommodation as described
- All meals on board
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac

## What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tips for staff
- Kayaking excursions \*select Ortelius/Hondius departures Meals other than those on board the ship
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

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### TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

A group transfer to/from Longyearbyen Airport is provided: Usually x1 main flight on arrival day, and x2 main flights on departure day.

On arrival day, passengers are transferred from the airport to city center where they can spend some time on their own behalf. Your luggage will be taken to the ship with a separate luggage truck.

If you are purchasing your own flights you must provide the KE office with full details of your flights. Emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

## Meal Plan

All meals on board the ship are included, from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 10.

## Food & Water

On board the ship a diverse range of international dishes are available. Meals are prepared and catered by professional chefs and all meals are included in the holiday price. Special dietary requirements, including vegetarianism, can be accommodated with advance notice (please advise at the time of booking). Coffee, tea and water are all provided free of charge. All other beverages, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, are not included and can be purchased in the dining room or the lounge areas.

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.



## Accommodation

Depending on departure, you will either board the M/V Ortelius, M/V Plancius or M/V Hondius for the duration of your trip. Each are 100+ passenger vessels originally designed as ice-strengthened polar science expedition ships with re-inforced hulls and comfortable living quarters. Standard accommodation is quad berth cabin with porthole. All cabins have en-suite facilities. All accommodation is on a sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself you will share a cabin with other clients of the same sex. Upgrades are available to triple or twin berth with porthole, twin berth with window, and superior/suite. Depending on availability, it is also possible to arrange a single cabin. Please contact the office for upgrade and single cabin prices. Please note that if you wish to upgrade ensure that you book early to avoid disappointment.

## Group Leader & Support Staff

A carefully chosen professional and qualified team will lead your voyage. Their goal is to provide an informed and balanced interpretation of the destination, accomplished through day-to-day briefings, and informal discussions. The expedition staff will work conscientiously with you, on deck and in the field, to allow you to experience all that the destination has to offer. Their strong sense of ethics and ecological knowledge make for stimulating and mindful conversation whether onshore or at the dinner table.

## Spending Money

It is not practical to set a recommended amount for personal spending money on a holiday like this. All meals while on board and the daily Zodiac excursions, are included in the trip price. The main extra spend on board will be on drinks and this will vary greatly from person to person. On board ship, bar bills can be put on a tab and paid at the end of the cruise by credit or debit card or in cash Euros. You will also need some money for any meals taken in Longyearbyen and for tips.

**Please note** - You will not be able to exchange your foreign money to Norwegian krone in Svalbard. Many of Longyearbyen's stores and restaurants will however accept almost any debit or credit card. You will find an ATM in the post and bank building, in the middle of the pedestrian street.

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## **Guidance on Tipping**

The customary gratuity to the ship's service personnel is made as a blanket contribution in one envelope at the end of the voyage which is divided among the crew and staff. You will receive detailed guidelines aboard. Tipping is a very personal matter and the amount you wish to give is at your discretion. It is better for the crew and staff, if you can give them cash, either US Dollars or Euros. You may give individually and / or communally as a personal 'thank you' to one or more of the ship's personnel. As a guide, we recommend you allow \$15 - 20 per day for tips to your crew and expedition staff.

## **Baggage Allowance**

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will be kept in your cabin with you and there is a finite amount of space, a soft bag is the most suitable as they are easier to store in the cabin. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline. Please note that you should be able to carry your own luggage.

## **Group Size & Holiday Status**

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

# General Information

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## Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

## Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

## Currency

The unit of currency in Norway is the Norwegian Krone.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](http://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

## Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through one of our international partners. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

## Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Longyearbyen. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Longyearbyen Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel. Please refer to 'Joining Arrangements and Transfers' for further details.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

## Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London (Heathrow) to Longyearbyen airport with SAS via Oslo. Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the evening arriving in the morning of the following day (day 1 of the itinerary), this requires an overnight in Norway (Oslo) which is included in the flight inclusive price. Return flights will depart Longyearbyen after lunch of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the same evening. Due to flight schedules, on certain departures it is also required to overnight in Oslo on the return. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request. Please note that the Oslo Hotel will be based at the airport. If you want to stay at an alternative hotel in the city, then these arrangements must be made by yourself. Please let our staff know when booking. Please take care to note the correct terminal for your flights in and out of Oslo as the international and domestic terminals are separate.

Please be aware that there are often only a limited number of seats available at the advertised price. To avoid paying flight supplements, we recommend that you book as early as possible, especially during peak times. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures, we will contact you with an alternative quote. Please note that you may be asked to pay for your flights in advance of your final holiday balance. Note that if you book a package including flights with KE you will benefit from full financial protection.

# Why Choose KE

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## Why KE

A polar cruise with the comfort of being aboard a 100+ passenger ice-strengthened vessel. First hand office experience of people that have been there and loved it. Paddle around the coastline of remote fjords, hike to see walrus and seabird colonies, and gaze in awe at the sheer size of the Braswellbreen Glacier. A truly breath-taking trip from a comfortable base. All meals on board, zodiac excursions and optional hikes included. Kayaking available on some departures is the only optional extra with a fee.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 21/01/2025 and the trip is subject to change