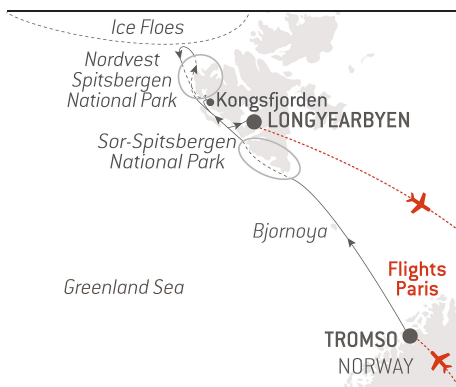


Pristine Spitsbergen - with National Geographic

From **26/5/2022**
to **3/6/2022**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Tromsø**
to **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**



Flight Paris/Tromsø + transfers + flight
Longyearbyen/Paris

In collaboration with National Geographic Expeditions.

With **PONANT**, set off to discover the west coast of **Spitsbergen** during a **9-day expedition cruise** into the heart of the Svalbard Archipelago. Aboard *L'Austral*, fall under the spell of the magical **Arctic Far North**, with its ice floes, **polar bears** and breathtaking glaciers.

Your ship will depart from Tromsø, in Norway, and head north to bring you closer to **Bear Island**, a refuge for many birds, in the western part of the Barents Sea.

You will then reach the southern tip of Spitsbergen and discover **the Sor-Spitsbergen National Park**, where you will be able to admire some of the island's most beautiful fjords, like the Hornsund with its impressive glacier front.

Further north, in the **Nordvest Spitsbergen National Park**, follow in the footsteps of the former **whalers** who once settled there. Some sites that are home to the graves of many sailors and are still frequented by various species of **cetaceans**.

Before your disembarkation in Longyearbyen, you will discover the **glaciers** of the **Kongsfjorden** and you will maybe have the opportunity to discover **Ny-Alesund**. This **international scientific station** is a former mining town, which was the departure point for many expeditions towards the North Pole.

We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. The itinerary, landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the AECO.



The information in this document is valid as of 30/7/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

TROMSO

Embarkation 26/5/2022 from 20h00 to 21h00

Departure 26/5/2022 at 22h00

In the north of the Arctic circle you'll discover **Tromsø**, a secluded town located in the county of Troms. Norwegians call it the "Paris of the north". You'll soon see why when you discover its extensive neoclassical architectural heritage. A stunning example is the **Arctic cathedral**, a major monument whose stylistic purity echoes the outline of the mountains surrounding the town.

AT SEA

Arrival 27/5/2022

Departure 27/5/2022

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

SAILING BY BJORNOYA (BEAR ISLAND)

Arrival 28/5/2022

Departure 28/5/2022

Halfway between Norway and Spitsbergen, you will sail not far from the coastlines of **Bjørnøya**, the southernmost island of Svalbard. From your ship, observe this isolated piece of land discovered in 1596 by the Dutch navigator Willem Barents, then looking for the Northwest Passage. Following a tough fight between a polar bear and the members of the expedition, he dubbed the place **Bear Island**. Regularly covered by a thick layer of fog, Bjørnøya shelters a meteorological station built in 1923, which is still in operation. Declared a **nature reserve** in 2002, the island is above all home to an **enormous colony of sea birds**: skuas, guillemots, puffins, Tridactyl gulls, petrels, gulls and little auks all coexist here.

SOR-SPITSBERGEN NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 29/5/2022

Departure 30/5/2022

The **Sor-Spitsbergen National Park**, established in 1973, is the largest national park in Norway and Europe with an area of up to 13,300 km². Two-thirds of its area is made up of ice and its sublime landscapes are divided between vast plains along the coast, alpine relief and impressive glaciers. You will discover **Hornsund**, the southernmost fjord and one of the most beautiful fjords in Spitsbergen with a length of 28 km. Its 8 large glaciers extend down to the sea and form an immense 25 km long ice front and important iceberg calvings, making up one of the most spectacular panoramas in Spitsbergen. You will have the opportunity to observe numerous colonies of birds and polar bears living in this nature sanctuary.

NORDVEST-SPITSBERGEN NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 31/5/2022

Departure 31/5/2022

Like the other protected areas of Svalbard, the Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park was established in the early 1970s to protect this exceptional environment against the growing interest of the mining industry. Nunataks, glaciers, islands and large bays, **arctic tundra** scattered with moss and lichen in shades of silver and gold... This region will fascinate you with its landscapes and with the **numerous vestiges that bear witness to the history of the men** whale hunters and those involved in the first expeditions to the North Pole who found themselves on these shores from the start of the 17th century. In this pristine environment, you will be able to observe **arctic sterns** or **seals** on the rocks that emerge at low tide.

SAILING ICE FLOES

Arrival 1/6/2022

Departure 1/6/2022

Enjoy the absolutely unique experience of sailing to the heart of the **ice floe**, this **vast expanse of virgin, immaculate ice**. The landscapes are constantly changing, shifting from a smooth, flat wilderness to a chaos of ice, then to channels of open water. Your ship will sail along these naturally open channels and through the areas where the frozen layer is thinnest, offering you the chance to experience magic maritime moments in the midst of drifting sea ice. It will also often be an opportunity to see a particular kind of fauna, totally dependent on the ice floe.

NORDVEST-SPITSBERGEN NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 2/6/2022

Departure 2/6/2022

Like the other protected areas of Svalbard, the Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park was established in the early 1970s to protect this exceptional environment against the growing interest of the mining industry. Nunataks, glaciers, islands and large bays, **arctic tundra** scattered with moss and lichen in shades of silver and gold... This region will fascinate you with its landscapes and with the **numerous vestiges that bear witness to the history of the men** whale hunters and those involved in the first expeditions to the North Pole who found themselves on these shores from the start of the 17th century. In this pristine environment, you will be able to observe **arctic sterns** or **seals** on the rocks

that emerge at low tide.

KONGSFJORDEN (KING BAY), SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 2/6/2022

Departure 2/6/2022

Very close to the former mining town of Ny-Ålesund, set off to discover **Kings Bay**. Your ship will sail in one of the most beautiful fjords in Svalbard: **Kongsfjorden** (the fjord of the King), a gateway to grandiose landscapes. Here, the snow-capped mountains are reflected in the water where superb **icebergs** try to outdo each other in their beauty, a delight for photographers. **Seals, reindeer**, barnacle geese and black guillemots frequent these places that have a unique atmosphere. Once you arrive at the end of the fjord, admire the **Kongsbreen** (glacier of the King) and its three characteristic rocky points, which take their names from three Scandinavian countries: Svea (Sweden), Dana (Denmark) and Nora (Norway).

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 3/6/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 3/6/2022 at 07h00

Longyearbyen is the capital of the Norwegian **Svalbard** archipelago, located on **Svalbard's** main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.