

Aurora Arctic Expedition

12 Day Svalbard Odyssey

Departs 19th June 2024



Blue Dot
Travel



\$18,470 pp
Twin-share
Balcony Stateroom B
(Subject to availability)



AURORA ARCTIC EXPEDITION — SVALBARD, NORWAY

Enjoy the best of Svalbard, a world of endless daylight. A land where polar bear sightings will delight, guillemot cries echo from the sea cliffs, and beluga whales rise from the sea. Explore tundra adorned with wildflowers and search for arctic fox, or discover historic camps of explorers and hunters. Push through pack ice to find walrus and bearded seals, or simply enjoy the breathtakingly beautiful Norwegian fjords.

ABOUT AURORA

From the start, Aurora Expeditions was destined to be different. Established 30 years ago and founded on a passion for adventure, exploring wild places and sharing the experience with friends, Aurora has a preference for small-group, personal expeditions. Each expedition is accompanied by an experienced team who are world class. Remote area specialists, their onboard lectures entertain and expand your knowledge. Whether you're joining an Aurora cruise for the first time or returning for another adventure, their mission remains the same — to explore wild places that stir the soul, offer personal attention on unforgettable expeditions and welcome new friends into the Aurora family.

YOUR SHIP

The Greg Mortimer is the first passenger vessel to feature the revolutionary ULSTEIN X-BOW®, providing improved stability in rough seas, enhanced ship speed and reduced environmental impact. The ship showcases other unique features such as custom-designed hydraulic platforms, sea-level Zodiac platforms for efficient loading off the ship, two jacuzzis and much more! The ship averages just 132 guests so your experience is more personal than larger vessels.

Blue Dot has secured a limited number of discounted cabins for this specific departure. Most cabins have balconies with full glass views.



Day 1, Wednesday 19th June ARRIVE LONGYEARBYEN

Having made our way to Longyearbyen, we will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our hotel. Upon arrival, visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk to collect luggage cabin tags. Aurora Expeditions ground operations team will be on hand to provide a detailed briefing on pre-embarkation arrangements. Your Blue Dot host will provide tips on where to dine, where to withdraw cash and the location of the pharmacy and supermarket. The remainder of your time today is at your leisure. Meals today are at your own expense. We suggest you take a stroll through the quirky township. Accommodation is at Radisson Blu Polar Hotel (included in cruise cost).



Day 2, Thursday 20th June EMBARKATION

This morning will be at leisure, before we'll meet our guide at our hotel in the early afternoon. Our locally guided journey begins with a drive to the outskirts of Longyearbyen. The stark landscape plays host to a vault unlike any other worldwide. A visit to unique local sights and the eclectic Svalbard Museum is included back in town before embarking on the vessel in the late afternoon. This evening, get to know your fellow expeditioners and our friendly Expedition Team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner to celebrate the start of a thrilling adventure. Sail out of the beautiful Isfjorden, escorted by gliding fulmars and perhaps the occasional puffin. **B/D**



Day 3 - 12, Friday 21st June – Sunday 30th June

ARCTIC CRUISE

Svalbard offers Arctic wilderness at its best. The experienced Aurora expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design our day-to-day itinerary, choosing the best options based on the prevailing weather, sea-ice conditions and wildlife encounters. Phenomenal fjords, magnificent mountain ranges and a polar desert rich in fossils set the stage for heroic tales of early exploration. See walrus hauled out on sea ice or beaches. On land, we'll stretch our legs on walks across tundra bursting with brightly-coloured wildflowers. We will visit historical sites, towering cliffs with nesting guillemots, puffins, and scree slopes that hold Svalbard's largest little auk colonies. With a little luck, we'll have a memorable encounter with the majestic polar bears on pack ice. Your expedition team is as keen as you to find them and will be on constant watch to spot these inspiring creatures — at a safe distance! **All meals on board**

ADD-ONS

Talk to Blue Dot about our pre and add-on tours to Iceland (13 days), Greenland (4 days) and The Faroes Islands (5 days). All of these are land-based tours separate from the expedition cruise. These may be taken in conjunction with, or independent of, the Arctic cruise. They are all available on our website at www.bluedottravel.com.au