

North Atlantic Islands 2010

Day by day itinerary

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.

Scottish Islands

Aberdeen - Oban

PLA03 May 28 – Jun 04 07 nights aboard Plancius

Day 1

Arrive in Aberdeen, famed as the granite city and many times a winner of the Britain in Bloom competition, and embark for our trip. The lighthouse on Girdle Ness, to the south as the North Sea is reached, was designed by the grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Day 2

At Fair Isle, in the Shetlands, we are welcomed by the 70 or so inhabitants (famed for their knitwear, examples of which we will see) and walk to the bird observatory. Later, on Mousa, one of the smaller Shetland Islands, we visit one of the best preserved brochs in Scotland. Brochs are circular stone towers probably built by the Picts. During a night excursion we watch thousands of Storm Petrels return to their burrows or crevices. By day we view Grey Seals, Black Guillemots, Red-throated Divers, Arctic Skuas and a wonderful spring flora.

Day 3

To the west of Shetland lies the small island of Foula, home to the largest colony of Great Skuas in the northern hemisphere. There are small ponds with Red-throated Divers and spectacular cliffs (The Noup) crowded with nesting seabirds. We visit Arctic Tern and Arctic Skua colonies as well as calling on the islanders who number only about 30.

Day 4

Out in the Atlantic to the north-west of Scotland lie the tiny islands of North Rona and Sula Sgeir. We shall land on North Rona to see the seabird colonies and the Grey Seals. The island was inhabited in the 18th century and some remains are still visible: Leach's Petrels can be heard calling from their nesting burrows in the ruined walls of a small church in the 'village'. Sula Sgeir is the last island in Britain on which Gannets are harvested annually. There will be spectacular views of its cliffs as we sail around. In 2006 we saw a Black-browed Albatross at this island.

Day 5

We visit Lewis to see the prehistoric stone circle of Callanish, one of the finest in Britain with stones over 3m tall. There are several smaller stone circles and chambered cairns on the moorland near Callanish. Later there will be great opportunities to watch and photograph Guillemots, Razorbills and Puffins on the Flannan Islands, a group of small islands to the west of the Outer Hebrides.

Day 6

To the west of North Uist lie the St Kilda group of islands, built of volcanic rock and with cliffs rising to over 400m, the highest in Britain and home to the largest seabird colony in the country. St Kilda has its own sub-species of birds and mice, and of sheep, the Soay, probably brought here by Stone Age man over 5,000 years ago. Until 1930 St. Kilda was inhabited, but then the last of the islanders left leaving a handful of windswept ruins, though there is also a military base which may be visited.

Day 7

The small islands of Mingulay, Berneray and Pabay, to the south of South Uist, are a nature reserve with important breeding populations of Razorbills, Guillemots, Black Guillemots, Puffins, Fulmars and Shags. There are also five species of gull, all the seabirds being attracted by the cliffs and caves which offer safe nesting sites. The islands also have significant historical sites, including the old village on Mingulay which the last islanders left in 1912. The islanders were fishermen and collected the seabirds and eggs for food. They also traded the feathers.

If the weather is poor we will sail to Canna, one of the 'Small Isles' of the Inner Hebrides. It has a tiny agricultural and cattle-rearing population. From a walk along the cliff top we may see Golden Eagles, White-tailed Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. At the cliff edge the rare Loose-flowered Orchids grow.

Day 8

We disembark at Oban, a small and cosy harbour town in west Scotland. From there it is a good option to take the train to Glasgow, a marvellous journey through one of the most scenic parts of Scotland, to join our homeward flights. The channels between the Scottish islands offer excellent possibilities to spot Minke Whales (a small baleen whale), White-beaked Dolphins and Harbour Porpoises. Several other cetaceans, including Orcas (Killer Whales), are also native to these waters.

St. Kilda - Faroes - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen - Whale Safari

Oban - Longyearbyen

PLA04 Jun 04 – Jun 14 10 nights aboard Plancius

Day 1

We embark at Oban, a small and cosy harbour town in west Scotland. From Glasgow it is a good option to take the train, a marvellous journey through one of the most scenic parts of Scotland. The channels between the Scottish islands offer excellent possibilities to spot Minke Whales (a small baleen whale), White-beaked Dolphins and Harbour Porpoises. Several other cetaceans, including Orcas (Killer Whales), are also native to these waters.

Day 2

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Day 3

Today we arrive at Thorshavn, the capital and cultural centre of the Faroes. Here we are free to shop, to visit the museum or just wander at will. In the harbour the small Faroese boats are a reminder of the Viking origins of the islanders. The walkers among us can make an exciting two hours walk across the hills to Kirkjubøer where they will find a medieval cathedral. In the early evening we will try to land at Saksun, tucked away at the head of a fjord which was once a superb natural harbour. Today the bay is full of sand and we can only enter by zodiac at high tide. At Saksun is a Natural Heritage Museum. Continuing along the north side of Streymoy we pass huge seabird colonies.

Day 4 & 5

We sail north to the Norwegian island of Jan Mayen, situated 300 nautical miles north-east of Iceland. During our two days at sea there will be plenty of time to watch for the blow of a Minke, Fin or Blue Whale, which could herald a rewarding encounter with these gentle giants. Perhaps we might run into a pod of Orcas, who can often be quite curious about boats such as ours.

Day 6

Jan Mayen is a volcanic island of breathtaking beauty and mystique, dominated by Mt Beerenberg. From the slopes of the 2300m volcano, impressive glaciers spill into the sea. Until recently, the island was off-limits as it is a military base, and was rarely visited by tourists, but with permission from the Norwegian authorities we hope to visit the weather station. We will also walk across the island to Kvalrossbukta to look at the remains of a 17th century Dutch whaling station and a substantial colony of Fulmars. We also plan to sail by Koksletta where thousands of Little Auks and Brünnich's Guillemots breed close to a glacier, watched over by piratical Glaucous Gulls.

Days 7 & 8

In the midnight sun we sail north along the edge of the sea-ice, looking out for different species of whales, dolphins, seals and a variety of seabirds, until the sea-ice will stop us and we will sail to North Spitsbergen.

Day 9

Depending on the position of the sea-ice, we sail into Raudfjord or one of the other fjords in Northwest Spitsbergen, where we have chances of seeing Polar Bears at the heads of the fjords, where seals are sunbathing on the fjord-ice. At Fuglesangen we have an opportunity to see thousands of Little Auks on their breeding places.

Day 10

Fuglehuken the northern tip of Prince Karls Forland is probably the place where Willem Barentsz made the first landing in Spitsbergen. It is an area with beautiful seabird-colonies and many remains of the Polar Bear hunting period of a century ago. Later we will look for Walruses at Sarstangen, Engelskmansbukta or Poole-pynten. In the evening we could land at Alkhornet another seabird colony with at the slopes Reindeer and Arctic Foxes.

Day 11

We disembark at Longyearbyen, the administrative centre of Spitsbergen, for flights south to Norway and onward to home.

Spitsbergen 2010

Day by day itineraries

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.

North Spitsbergen - Climate Academy

Longyearbyen - Longyearbyen

ATD05	Jun 20 – Jun 24	04 nights	aboard Antarctic Dream
ATD06	Jun 24 – Jun 28	04 nights	aboard Antarctic Dream

North Spitsbergen

Longyearbyen - Longyearbyen

ATD07	Jun 28 – Jul 05	07 nights	aboard Antarctic Dream
PLA05 KD	Jun 14 – Jun 21	07 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA06 K	Jun 21 – Jun 28	07 nights	aboard Plancius

Day 1

Arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Spitsbergen archipelago of which West Spitsbergen is the largest island. Before embarking there is an opportunity to stroll around this former mining town, whose parish church and Polar Museum are well worth visiting, while in the surrounds of Longyearbyen, more than 100 species of plant have been recorded. In the early evening the ship will sail out of Isfjorden.

Day 2

Heading north along the west coast, we arrive by morning in Krossfjorden, where we take to the Zodiacs for an exhilarating cruise along the sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier. On the surprisingly fertile slopes near the glacier, a colourful variety of flowers bloom, while large numbers of Kittiwakes and Brünnich's Guillemots nest on the nearby cliffs. There is also a good chance of spotting opportunistic Arctic Foxes, patrolling the base of the cliffs in case a hapless chick falls from its nest, and Bearded Seals, who cruise this scenic fjord. In the afternoon we sail to Ny Ålesund, the world's most northerly settlement.

Once a mining village - served by the world's most northerly railway, which can still be seen - Ny Ålesund is now a research centre. Close to the village is a breeding ground for Barnacle Geese, Pink-footed Geese and Arctic Terns. Visitors interested in the history of Arctic exploration will want to walk to the anchoring mast used by Amundsen and Nobile in the airship *Norge* in 1926 and Nobile in the airship *Italia* in 1928 before their flights to the North Pole.

Day 3

Depending on the weather we may now sail to the mouth of Liefdefjorden and go ashore for a walk on the tundra island of Andøya. Many Common Eiders and Pink-footed Geese nest here, and the rarer King Eider may also be seen. We hope to sail into Liefdefjorden, cruising near the 5km long face of the impressive Monaco glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favourite feeding spot for thousands of Kittiwakes and on previous voyages Polar Bears have been seen on the glacier, providing wonderful opportunities for photography.

Day 4

Today we will sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to Bearded Seals, Ringed Seals, Polar Bears, and Ivory Gulls. We'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in our zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopenstrait, we'll attempt a landing at Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet, home to Reindeer, Pink-footed Geese, breeding Ivory Gulls, and Walruses.

Day 5

Today we will reach our northernmost point at Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet. Here we will be at 81 degrees north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar Bears inhabit this region, along with Ivory Gulls. We may sit for several hours in the pack ice, taking in our spectacular surroundings and seeing a Ross Gull, before we turn south again.

Day 6

Retracing our route westwards, we visit Raudfjord on the north coast of West Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord dominated by spectacular glaciers and favoured by Ringed and Bearded Seals. The cliffs and shoreline of the fjord also support thriving seabird colonies and a surprisingly rich vegetation, which flourishes in sheltered spots. On the offshore island of Ytre Norskøya, we visit a 17th century Dutch whaling site, whose large graveyard is a poignant reminder of the

hardships and dangers of life here at the time. The island's bird life is prolific, with colonies of Little Auks, Black Guillemots, Brünnich's Guillemots, Puffins and Arctic Skuas accessible to visitors.

Day 7

We land at the northern tip of Prins Karls Forland near Fuglehuken, where Barentsz probably set foot on Spitsbergen for the first time. Seabirds nest on the cliffs and along the coast we see Harbour Seals the only population in Spitsbergen. Further we also will observe the remains of the Polar Bear hunting era, with demolished set guns and bear traps. At the opposite site of Forlandsundet at Sarstangen is a haul out place for Walruses. Alternatively we sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden and land at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on its cliffs and Arctic Foxes search the cliff base for fallen eggs and chicks, while Spitsbergen Reindeer graze the relatively luxuriant vegetation. The reindeer may seem unbothered by human presence, but this is not really the case. The animals must survive the harsh winter, when temperatures plummet and food is hard to find, so they preserve what energy they can, fleeing only when it is absolutely necessary. In the afternoon we cruise through beautiful Borebukta, following a glacier front before continuing to Longyearbyen.

Day 8

Return to Longyearbyen and disembark for the transfer to the airport and the flight to Oslo and home.

North / Around Spitsbergen

Longyearbyen - Longyearbyen

ATD08	Jul 05 – Jul 15	10 nights	aboard Antarctic Dream
ATD09	Jul 15 – Jul 25	10 nights	aboard Antarctic Dream
ATD10	Jul 25 – Aug 04	10 nights	aboard Antarctic Dream
PLA07 K	Jun 28 – Jul 08	10 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA08 KD	Jul 08 – Jul 18	10 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA09 K	Jul 18 – Jul 28	10 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA10 K	Jul 28 – Aug 07	10 nights	aboard Plancius

The ice conditions will determine the sailing plan, either the North or around Spitsbergen.

ATD11	Aug 04 – Aug 14	10 nights	aboard Antarctic Dream
PLA11 K	Aug 07 – Aug 17	10 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA12 K	Aug 17 – Aug 27	10 nights	aboard Plancius

Day 1

Arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Spitsbergen archipelago of which West Spitsbergen is the largest island. Before embarking there is an opportunity to stroll around this former mining town, whose parish church and Polar Museum are well worth visiting, while in the surrounds of Longyearbyen, more than 100 species of plant have been recorded. In the early evening the ship will sail out of Isfjorden.

Day 2

Heading north along the west coast, we arrive by morning in Krossfjorden, where we take to the Zodiacs for an exhilarating cruise along the sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier. On the surprisingly green slopes near the glacier, a colourful variety of flowers bloom, while large numbers of Kittiwakes and Brünnich's Guillemots nest on the nearby cliffs. There is also a good chance of spotting opportunistic Arctic Foxes, who patrol the base of the cliffs in case a hapless chick falls from its nest, and Bearded Seals, who cruise this scenic fjord. In the afternoon we sail to Ny Ålesund, the world's most northerly settlement. Once a mining village - served by the world's most northerly railway, which can still be seen - Ny Ålesund is now a research centre. Close to the village is a breeding ground for Barnacle Geese, Pink-footed Geese and Arctic Terns. Visitors interested in the history of Arctic exploration will want to walk to the anchoring mast used by Amundsen and Nobile in the airship *Norge* in 1926 and Nobile in the airship *Italia* in 1928 before their flights to the North Pole.

Day 3

Near the mouth of Liefdefjorden, we will go ashore for a walk on the tundra island of Andøya. Many common eiders and pink-footed geese nest here, and the more rare king eider may also be seen. Sailing into Liefdefjorden, we will cruise near the face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favourite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes and occasionally polar bears are seen on the glacier.

Day 4

Today we will reach our northernmost point at Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet. Here we will be at 81 degrees north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, along with ivory gulls. We may sit for several hours in the pack ice, taking in our spectacular surroundings and seeing a Ross gull, before we turn south again.

Day 5

We will visit Laagöya today, a low island with a big lagoon where a big herd of Walrus tends to congregate. Sabine's Gulls nest on the island, as well. At Sorg Fjord we may find another herd of walrus not far from the graves of 17th century whalers. On a nature walk, we may encounter families of ptarmigans.

Day 6

Today we will sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to Bearded Seals, Ringed Seals, Polar Bears, and Ivory Gulls. We'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in our zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopenstrait, we'll attempt a landing at Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet, home to Reindeer, Pink-footed Geese, breeding Ivory Gulls, and Walrus.

Day 7

Near Torrelneset, we will explore the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third largest ice cap, which meets the sea nearby. We will walk along beautiful coastline covered in smooth rocks, sculpted by the surf over thousands of years. We may encounter walrus along the way. Sailing south of Nordaustlandet we will have good chance to see Greenland Whales.

Day 8

In Freemansundet we plan to land at Sundneset on the island of Barentsøya to visit an old trapper's hut and then take a brisk walk across the tundra in search of Spitsbergen Reindeer and Barnacle Geese. Later we cruise south to Diskobukta on the west side of Edgeøya. After a Zodiac cruise through the shallow bay, we land on a beach littered with whale bones and tree trunks, which have drifted here from Siberia. We can also climb to the rim of a narrow gully which is inhabited by thousands of Kittiwakes, together with Black Guillemots and piratical Glaucous Gulls. During the breeding season, the base of the cliffs is patrolled by Arctic Foxes and Polar Bears, especially females with young cubs, searching for young birds that have fallen from the nesting ledges.

Day 9

We start the day quietly cruising the side fjords of the spectacular Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen, enjoying the scenery of towering mountain peaks. Hornsundtind rises to 1,431m while Bautaen shows why early Dutch

explorers gave the name 'Spitsbergen' - pointed mountains - to the island. There are also 14 magnificent glaciers in the area and very good chances of encounters with seals and Polar Bears. We may visit the Polish research station where the friendly staff will give us an insight into their research projects. Behind the station the mountains are home to thousands of pairs of nesting Little Auks.

Day 10

Today we land on Ahlstrandhalvøya at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden. Here piles of Beluga skeletons (the Beluga is a small white whale), the remains of 19th century slaughter, are yet another reminder of the consequences of thoughtless exploitation. Fortunately, Belugas were not hunted to the edge of extinction and may still be seen locally. Indeed, there is a good chance that we will come across a pod. Cruising into Recherchefjorden during the afternoon we can explore an area of tundra at the head of the fjord where many Reindeer feed.

Day 11

Return to Longyearbyen and disembark for the transfer to the airport and the flight to Oslo and home.

N.B.

The chances that we can complete a full Spitsbergen Circumnavigation (based on our experiences from 1992 until 2009) are about, 20% in the first half of July, 55% in the second half of July, 90% in the first half of August, 95% in the second half of August. In case we can not complete a full circumnavigation we will mostly resort to a programme in Northeast or Southeast Spitsbergen.

If ice conditions are very favourable, which is likely in the second half of August, we may sail around Nordaustlandet, passing another Nordkapp and visiting Kvitøya, the place where the Swedish Explorer Andree perished, instead of sailing through the Hinlopen Strait.

This special voyage is dedicated to an intense nature experience in remote areas. We will offer full-day hikes to explore the rarely visited interior of various islands, which has been seen by reindeer and polar bears rather than by man. We will walk on mountains to enjoy spectacular scenery of rugged peaks and large glaciers. The emphasis of this voyage is on remote areas in the eastern parts of the archipelago for the excitement of pioneering and exploring rather than following well-trodden paths. We will also offer shorter excursions in the same areas.

Day 1

Embarkation.

Day 2

Reinsdyrflya is the largest of Spitsbergen's characteristic coastal plains. It is home to large numbers of the endemic Spitsbergen reindeer. The hikers will cross the gently undulating terrain of Reinsdyrflya from north to south, a distance of about 18 km.

Alternatively, we offer a morning landing on the eastern side of Reinsdyrflya and an afternoon excursion to Sørvalen, where we will meet our hiking comrades and explore the remains of a German weather station from the days of WWII. The evening will include a ship-based visit to the large glacier Monacobreen, one of the scenic highlights of north-western Spitsbergen.

Day 3

Mosselhalvøya is the northernmost tip of the main island Spitsbergen. Our guides will have some exciting stories from polar expeditions of the past to tell as we rest on the tundra. The hikers will cross Mosselhalvøya from Mosselbukta to Sorgfjord, a total distance is a good 20 km, including some uneven terrain.

Alternatively, we will make a shorter excursion in Mosselbukta and later land at Eolusneset in the Sorgfjord.

Day 4

Today, we visit the north side of the large, remote and barren island of Nordaustland. High-arctic wildlife is constantly roaming these shorelines, including the symbols of the high Arctic: polar bear and walrus. Landing options in these badly charted waters include the northern side of Lågøya („Low Island“). A hike of about 15 km will lead from Purchasneset to the interior of Lågøya and end on the eastern side of the island near a trapper's hut from the early 20th century.

Alternatively, we will offer landings at the same places, the distance between them covered by Zodiac (inflatable landing craft).

Day 5

Hinlopen Strait separates the two largest islands of Svalbard, Spitsbergen and Nordaustland. In Augustabukta, we will set foot on Nordaustland and explore this desert-like, yet beautiful environment. The hikers will follow Palanderdalen, an ice-free corridor between two major ice-caps of Nordaustland. After about 20 km of polar desert, Palanderbukta is reached, a smaller fjord surrounded by large ice-caps from almost all sides. Both landings, Augustabukta and Palanderbukta, will also be available without the hike.

Day 6

Barentsøya and Edgeøya have a surprisingly rich tundra and a very characteristic landscape. Sundneset at the southeastern corner of Barentsøya offers lush tundra vegetation and often large numbers of reindeer. Following a river up to a waterfall, the hikers will cover about 17 km to enjoy splendid views.

Alternatively, a shorter landing at Sundneset, including highlights such as rich tundra, a waterfall and good chances for encounters with reindeer, will be supplemented with another excursion at Rindedalen on the south side of Barentsøya.

Day 7

The east coast of Spitsbergen is very rarely visited during the summer. In Mohnbukta, the hikers will have the opportunity to reach a mountain plateau with good views of impressive push-moraine walls of the glacier Usherbreen. Some of the Mesozoic sediment layers in this area are very rich in fossils such as ammonites and bivalves. Everybody will be back on board after 4-5 hours. During mid-day, the Professor Multanovskiy repositions further south to Agardhbukta. Excursion opportunities include mountain walks and a hike inland to a colony of ivory gulls.

Day 8

Kapp Lee near the northwestern corner of Edgeøya has been a focal point for hunting and scientific expeditions for centuries. Land uplift that followed the ice-age has left its traces in shape of ancient whalebones and driftwood far

from the coast, having a respectable age of several 1000 years. In Diskobukta, a good 20 km further southeast, we find a small canyon with a colony of Kittiwakes. The opportunity to hike from Kapp Lee to Diskobukta enables us to appreciate the whole coastline with plentiful driftwood, whalebones and potential wildlife surprises. Alternatively, it will be possible to land both at Kapp Lee and Diskobukta without the hike.

Day 9

Andréetangen in southeastern Edgeøya has been a classic area for trappers in the early 20th century who went there to hunt polar bears. A hike inland of about 4 hours takes us to the almost complete skeleton of a Greenland Whale which stranded there when this inland ridge was the beach, about 7 000 years ago. In the afternoon, we will altogether visit the Kong Ludvigøyane, where again we will see about complete skeletons of Greenland Whales.

Day 10

The Hornsund at the west coast of Spitsbergen is surrounded by glaciers and mountains including the Hornsundtind (1 431 m) and the needle-shaped Bautaen. A half-day hike up to one of the mountains in Brepollen, the innermost part of the Hornsund, will provide spectacular views of the glacier landscape, which can alternatively be explored by Zodiac. In the afternoon, Burgerbukta on the northern side of the Hornsund will make clear why some think of the Hornsund as the most beautiful fjords of Spitsbergen, before we set course for the Isfjord and Longyearbyen.

Day 11

Longyearbyen disembarkation.

N.B.

The chances that we can complete a full Spitsbergen Circumnavigation (based on our experiences from 1992 until 2008) are about, 20% in the first half of July, 55% in the second half of July, 90% in the first half of August, 95% in the second half of August. In case we can not complete a full circumnavigation we will mostly resort to a program in Northeast Spitsbergen.

Greenland 2010

Day by day itineraries

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Northeast Greenland - In the wake of German explorers

Longyearbyen – Akureyri

ATD13

Aug 24 – Sep 05

12 nights

aboard Antarctic Dream

Day 1

Arrive in Longyearbyen, on Spitsbergen, the administrative capital of the Spitsbergen archipelago of which West Spitsbergen is the largest island. Before embarking there is an opportunity to visit this former mining village. The Parish Church and the Polar Museum are well worth visiting, while in the country around the village more than 100 species of plant have been recorded. In the early evening the ship will sail out of Isfjorden. We try to have an evening excursion in Tryghamna near a 17th century English whaling station.

Day 2 & 3

At sea, on our way to Greenland, we may see the edge of the East Greenland Ice. We keep watch for whales, and also for migrating seabirds.

Day 4

If the ice conditions allow we will try to get to Shannon Island and Kuhn Island, where we have a chance to see Muskoxen and Arctic Hares.

Day 5

On Sabine Island we will try to land in the Hansa Bugt, where during World War II the Germans had the weather station “Holzauge”. Further we will sail to Germania Havn, where in 1869 the members of the 2nd German North Pole Expedition under Koldewey spent the winter. In the following summer they were the first Europeans to enter the Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord.

Day 6

We sail through Kaiser Franz Joseph Fjord, a magnificent fjord with towering mountains on both sides, its inner reaches choked with huge icebergs. An alternative is Sofia Sund, which is much narrower, and where we can see Muskoxen from the ship. We will land at Blomster Bugt to view the beautiful geological formations. Arctic Hares are usually seen here, and there is a lake with Great Northern Divers with young. In the afternoon we sail along Teufelschloss.

Day 7

The first half of the day we spend in Alpefjord, a spectacular fjord with glaciers and ice-bergs. From there we have good view on the 3000m high by von Payer named Petermann Berg.

Day 8

Today we reach the Scoresby Sund and sail in the morning along the coast of Jameson Land. We try to reach the site where Alfred Wegener in 1930 erected a small station (Tyskit Nunat) as support for his planned crossing of the Greenland Ice-cap.

Day 9

We go ashore at Cape Hofmann Halvø, a reliable spot for viewing Musk Oxen. We may also spot Rock Ptarmigans, and Great Northern Divers at sea. The landscape here is particularly beautiful, especially during autumn when the Dwarf Willow and Dwarf Birch change colour. Arctic Blueberry and Crowberry add their own colourful touch - the berries are tasty too !

In the evening we sail through the fjord towards the east, enjoying the contrast between the warm autumnal colours of the vegetation on shore, backed by huge dark mountains, and the cold blue of the icebergs.

Day 10

We land on Danmarks Ø where there are the remains of an Inuit settlement abandoned around 200 years ago. The circular ‘tent rings’ of stones indicate the summer houses, while the winter houses can be seen closer to a small cape. The sites are excellently preserved, allowing entrances and even bear-proof meat caches to be identified. There are also grave sites. In the evening we continue our sailing through the beautiful fjords to the west, choked with ice-bergs.

In the afternoon we continue along the ragged Volquart Boons Kyst, where we may take a zodiac cruise along one of the glacier fronts like in Vikinge Bugt.

Day 11

Today we land at Illoqqortoormiut, the biggest settlement in the Scoresby Sund with about 500 inhabitants. At the post office you can buy stamps for your postcards, or just wander around to see the sledge dogs and the drying skins of Seal, Musk Ox and Polar Bear.

Day 12

We are the whole day at sea and will have splendid opportunities to see large whales and seabird migration and, in the night, the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights).

Day 13

Arrive in Akureyri (North Iceland) and transfer to Reykjavik by chartered bus.

Spitsbergen - Northeast Greenland

[Longyearbyen – Akureyri](#)

PLA13 K Aug 27 – Sep 08 12 nights aboard Plancius

Day 1

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Day 2

We sail into Raudfjord on the north coast of West Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord with spectacular glaciers. It is home to Ringed and Bearded Seals, seabird colonies and a surprisingly rich vegetation. We have good chances to see Polar Bears, for instance near Hamilton Glacier, or more to the head of the fjord. From there we continue to Møffen island on which Walrus haul out.

Day 3 & 4

At sea, on our way to Greenland, we may see the edge of the East Greenland Ice. We keep watch for whales, and also for migrating seabirds.

Day 5

Approaching Greenland we will attempt to sail through the sea ice into Foster Bugt, making our first landing at Myggebogten. Beyond the old hunters' hut (in the first half of last century Norwegian trappers hunted here for Polar Bears and Arctic Foxes) there is an extensive tundra populated by Musk Oxen. The small lakes are home to geese. We sail through Kaiser Franz Joseph Fjord, a magnificent fjord with towering mountains on both sides, its inner reaches choked with huge icebergs. An alternative is Sofia Sund, which is much narrower, and where we can see Muskoxen from the ship.

Day 6

We will land at Blomster Bugt to view the beautiful geological formations. Arctic Hares are usually seen here, and there is a lake with Great Northern Divers with young. In the afternoon we sail along Teufelschloss and Ella Ó and may land at a beautiful spot in the early evening.

Day 7

The first half of the day we spend in Antarticahavn, a wide and extensive valley where we also could see groups of Musk Oxen. At this time of year the autumnal colours of the sparse vegetation make the landscapes even more beautiful.

Day 8

Today we reach the Scoresby Sund and sail in the morning along the ragged and glaciated Volquart Boons Coast. Here we may organise a zodiac cruise along one of the glacier fronts of this coast, and have our first landing near for instance Maane Glacier.

Later we land on Danmarks Ø where there are the remains of an Inuit settlement abandoned around 200 years ago. The circular 'tent rings' of stones indicate the summer houses, while the winter houses can be seen closer to a small cape. The sites are excellently preserved, allowing entrances and even bear-proof meat caches to be identified. There are also grave sites. In the evening we continue our sailing through the beautiful fjords to the west, choked with ice-bergs.

Day 9

We go ashore at Cape Hofmann Halvø, a reliable spot for viewing Musk Oxen. We may also spot Rock Ptarmigans, and Great Northern Divers at sea. The landscape here is particularly beautiful, especially during autumn when the Dwarf Willow and Dwarf Birch change colour. Arctic Blueberry and Crowberry add their own colourful touch - the berries are tasty too! In the evening we sail through the fjord towards Scoresby Land, enjoying the contrast between the warm autumnal colours of the vegetation on shore, backed by huge dark mountains, and the cold blue of the icebergs.

Day 10

In Northwest fjord in Scoresby Land in the morning, we encounter huge icebergs, some over 100m high and more than a kilometre in length. Most of the bergs are grounded as the fjord is only about 400m deep here. We land near Sydkap to view the remains of the Thule culture winter houses. As many as 20 people lived in these tiny houses, hunting Greenland Whales and using their vertebrae to build the houses. We may also land at Gurreholm on Jameson Land. The landscape here is gently undulating.

Day 11

In the morning we land at Ittoqqortoormiit, the biggest settlement in the Scoresby Sund with about 500 inhabitants. At the post office you can buy stamps for your postcards, or just wander around to see the sledge dogs and the drying skins of Seal, Musk Ox and Polar Bear. After dinner we will sail south passing the amazing landscape of the Blossville Coast.

Day 12

We are the whole day at sea and will have splendid opportunities to see large whales and seabird migration and, in the night, the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights).

Day 13

Arrive in Akureyri (North Iceland) and transfer to hotels in Reykjavik by chartered bus.

ATD14	Sep 05 – Sep 14	09 nights	aboard Antarctic Dream
PLA14 K	Sep 08 – Sep 17	09 nights	aboard Plancius

Day 1

Transfer by bus from Reykjavik hotels in the morning to the ship in Akureyri, where we arrive in the afternoon after six hours drive through North Iceland. In the early evening we leave Iceland and sail north towards the Denmark Strait.

Day 2

At sea, sailing north through the Denmark Strait. We are almost certain to see Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Gannets and rafts of Common Guillemots. We cross the Arctic Circle and continue north, perhaps seeing whales. In the evening we will spot our first icebergs appear as we approach the east coast of Greenland near Kap Brewster.

Day 3

In the morning we sail along the ragged and glaciated Volquart Boons Coast, here we may organise a zodiac cruise along one of the glacier fronts of this coast, and have our first landing near a glacier, like Maanegletsjer or in Vikingebugt. Later we land on Danmarksø where there are the remains of an Inuit settlement abandoned around 200 years ago. The circular 'tent rings' of stones indicate the summer houses, while the winter houses can be seen closer to a small cape. The sites are excellently preserved, allowing entrances and even bear-proof meat caches to be identified. There are also grave sites. In the evening we continue our sailing through the beautiful fjords to the west, choked with ice-bergs.

Day 4

We go ashore at Cape Hofmann Halvø, a reliable spot for viewing Musk Oxen. We may also spot Rock Ptarmigans and at sea Great Northern Divers. The landscape here is particularly beautiful, especially during autumn when the Dwarf Willow and Dwarf Birch change colour. Arctic Blueberry and Crowberry add their own colourful touch - the berries are tasty too! In the evening we sail through the fjord towards Scoresby Land enjoying the contrast between the warm autumnal colours of the vegetation on shore, backed by huge dark mountains, and the cold blue of the icebergs.

Day 5

On our way to Sydkap in Scoresby Land in the morning, we encounter huge icebergs, some over 100 m high and more than a kilometre in length. Most of the bergs are grounded as the fjord is only about 400 m deep here. We land near Sydkap to view the remains of the Thule culture winter houses. As many as 20 people lived in these tiny houses, hunting Greenland Whales and using their vertebrae to build the houses. We may also land at Gurreholm on Jameson Land. The landscape here is gently undulating. Musk Oxen and Collared Lemmings - survive on the meagre vegetation.

Day 6

In the morning we land in Ittoqqortoormiit, the biggest settlement near Scoresby Sund with about 500 inhabitants. At the post office you can buy stamps for your postcards, or just wander around to see the sledge dogs and the drying skins of seals, Musk Ox and Polar Bear. After lunch we will sail south, passing the amazing landscape of the Blossville Coast where groups of Harp Seals can be spotted among the ice floes.

Day 7

At the mouth of Nansen Fjord we spot Gunnbjørns Fjeld, at 3,700m: it is both the highest peak in Greenland and also the highest mountain north of the Arctic Circle. We sail into Nansen Fjord another magnificent landscape with an enormous calving glacier front, which we can easily approach. At the inner side of the fjord along the northern shore there are ample landing and zodiac cruising opportunities. We meet often tame Rock Ptarmigans with young, and on the ice-floes Bearded Seals.

If we can not sail into Nansen fjord due to glacier ice, which often fills the fjord, we will sail into Mikis Fjord, bounded by steep cliffs. The fjord is a good place to spot Ringed Seals and Harp Seals. At Södalen at the head of Mikis Fjord we land in a marshy delta. There are good populations of both Common and Arctic Redpolls, as well as a chance of seeing flocks of Barnacle Geese and Pink-footed Geese.

Day 8

In the morning, we head south for Kangerlussuaq fjord where glaciers reach the sea creating a fabulous landscape of glacier fronts, icebergs and cliffs. On shore there are the remains of dwellings of Thule culture people. We conclude the day with a Zodiac trip to Skaergårdshalvø, a popular summer hunting ground for the people of Ammassalik. Most years a number of families arrive here in early summer and stay until the end of the hunting season and we might be able to meet them. In the afternoon we will sail south-east towards the Denmark Strait.

Day 9

The whole day at sea offers excellent opportunities to see large whales and seabird migration and, at night the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights).

Day 10

Arrive in Keflavik, and transfer for the airport for the flight home.

N.B.

The chances that the sea-ice will allow us to sail into the Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord and Scoresby Sund in September (based on experiences from 1992 until 2009) is about 85%. In case we can not sail into the Scoresby Sund we will resort to a programme in the East Greenland fjords more to the south.

Noorderlicht Sailing Cruises 2010

Day by day itineraries

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.

INTRODUCTION

'Noorderlicht'

The sailing expeditions in Spitsbergen and Norway will be carried out by the two-mast sailing vessel Noorderlicht. The ship was built in 1910, in Flensburg. For most of her life she served as a light vessel on the Baltic. Then, in 1991 the present owners purchased the ship and re-rigged and re-fitted her thoroughly, according to the rules of 'Register Holland'. Noorderlicht is 46 metres long and 6.5 metres breadth. It is a well-balanced, two-master schooner rig that is able to sail all seas.

Below deck the ship has a saloon, while in the deckhouse there is a cosy settee from which passengers can view the outside in comfort. All 10 double cabins have hot and cold running water, a cupboard and single berths. The ship has four showers and five toilets. The galley has been equipped with a microwave and a dishwasher. The ship is both well insulated and central heated.

Crew and passengers

Noorderlicht is crewed by three expert Dutch sailors, a chef and an expedition leader who has a thorough knowledge of the area. Though the crew are in charge during sailing - they will bring us ashore - the assistance of the passengers is appreciated in handling the sails and taking the helm. Duties can also include being on watch during night sailing. On board there will be a maximum of 20 passengers of different nationalities. The main language will be English.

The voyages

Voyages 3 – 7 will follow the coastline of North Spitsbergen. During Voyages 8 - 11 we will try to circumnavigate Spitsbergen. Every day there will be excursions on land weather and ice permitting. The excursions on land will be three to six hours per day, crossing untracked land. According to circumstances (weather, ice conditions or passengers' wishes) the program can sometimes be adjusted. Ample time will be devoted to wildlife, geography and history.

North Spitsbergen

Longyearbyen - Longyearbyen

NOO04	May 30 – Jun 10	11 nights
NOO05	Jun 10 – Jun 21	11 nights
NOO06	Jun 21 – Jul 02	11 nights
NOO07	Jul 02 – Jul 13	11 nights

Day 1

After arriving in Longyearbyen, the 'capital' (actually the administrative centre) of Spitsbergen, you may wish to visit the Svalbard Museum which has an interesting collection on the history of Spitsbergen, the mining industry and polar exploration. In the afternoon we sail, setting course for Alkhornet, a seabird cliff with a large colony of Kittiwakes. Below the cliffs is a den with Arctic Foxes which scavenge off fallen eggs and chicks. We continue to Trygghamna to visit the remains of a 17th century English whaling station and an 18th century Russian Pomor station.

Day 2

We leave Trygghamna early in the morning and sail through the Forlandsundet. Weather permitting we will go ashore at Fuglehuken where the first Western Europeans (the expedition of Willem Barentsz) set foot on Spitsbergen. Here we can see the graves of whalers and visit colonies of Common Guillemots, Brünnich's Guillemots, Little Auks and Kittiwakes. Nearby we may be able to visit a haul-out of Harbour Seals and Walruses.

Day 3

Today we will visit Ny Ålesund, the northernmost permanently inhabited village in the world, a centre for polar research and a former starting point for many North Pole expeditions (Amundsen and Nobile for example). The local bird life has adapted itself to the human presence and is exceptionally tame. Barnacle Geese, Pink-footed Geese, Common Eiders, Arctic Terns and several species of wader can be seen at close quarters. The Reindeers here are smaller than their mainland relatives and do not form large herds.

Day 4

In the morning we sail from Ny Ålesund to the 14th July Glacier where we cruise in zodiacs. Not far from the glacier we will visit an accessible breeding site for Brünnich's Guillemots, Auks and Puffins. The guano of these bird colonies, the southward exposure and the sheltered situation, give rise to a relatively rich vegetation with many species of flowering plants.

Day 5

Sailing northwards we visit the Magdalenafjord, one of the most beautiful places on Spitsbergen, with many impressive glacier fronts. During a shore visit we will view the remains of 17th century English whaling activities. We can also visit some big seabird colonies particularly noteworthy for their Little Auks.

Day 6

Today we will try to visit Ytre Norskøya, a small island which was used for many years as a lookout point for Dutch whalers. There we can still follow their tracks to the summit of the island, passing excellent bird cliffs on the way. On shore the remains of 17th century blubber ovens can be found, while Arctic Skuas and Common Eiders breed among the graves of 200 Dutch whalers.

Day 7

Raudfjord on the north coast of Spitsbergen is a beautiful fjord with spectacular glaciers. It is also a favourite with Ringed and Bearded Seals, has good seabird colonies, and offers good chances for spotting Polar Bear and Belugas. Jermaktangen, at the fjord's eastern entrance, is a geography lesson in the erosion of the land by the sea.

Day 8

If sea-ice conditions allow, we may land on the northern-side of Reindyrfila, the largest tundra area of Spitsbergen. The vast undulating plain is a good grazing area for Reindeer and several species of waders also breed here. The area's lakes offer good chances of spotting Red-throated Divers and King Eiders.

Day 9

Today we visit the remains of Smeerenburg, the largest 17th century whaling settlement on Spitsbergen, and, if we obtain permission, Danskøya where many historical remains are to be found of the 19th century expedition by the Swedish explorer Andree, who tried to reach the North Pole in a balloon.

Day 10 & 11

On our way south, we will try to make a landing on the coast of the Forlandsundet at Engelsbukta or Sarstangen or Poolepynten, where Walrus are often hauled out.

From there we head straight for Longyearbyen, but if time allows we could call at Colesbukta, from where good walkers may walk to Longyearbyen in six hours.

Day 12

Departure by scheduled flight from Longyearbyen to Oslo.

North / Around Spitsbergen

Longyearbyen - Longyearbyen

NOO08	Jul 13 – Jul 28	15 nights
NOO09	Jul 28 – Aug 12	15 nights

The ice conditions will determine the sailing plan, either the North or around Spitsbergen

Around Spitsbergen

Longyearbyen - Longyearbyen

NOO10	Aug 12 – Aug 27	15 nights
NOO11	Aug 27 – Sep 11	15 nights

Day 1

After arriving in Longyearbyen, the 'capital' (actually the administrative centre) of Spitsbergen, you may wish to visit the Svalbard Museum which has an interesting collection on the history of Spitsbergen, the mining industry and polar exploration. In the afternoon we sail, setting course for Alkhornet, a seabird cliff with a large colony of Kittiwakes. Below the cliffs is a den with Arctic Foxes which scavenge off fallen eggs and chicks. We continue to Trygghamna to visit the remains of a 17th century English whaling station and an 18th century Russian Pomor station.

Day 2

We leave Trygghamna early in the morning and sail through the Forlandsundet. Weather permitting we will go ashore at Fuglehuken where the first Western Europeans (the expedition of Willem Barentsz) set foot on Spitsbergen. Here we can see the graves of whalers and visit colonies of Common Guillemots, Brünnich's Guillemots, Little Auks and Kittiwakes. Nearby we may be able to visit a haul-out of Harbour Seals and Walrus.

Day 3

Today we visit the remains of Smeerenburg, the largest 17th century whaling settlement on Spitsbergen. We also land on Ytre Norskøya where there are many graves dating from whaling days.

Day 4-15

Today we sail either to Sorgfjord, where we have a good chance of seeing Walrus, or to Murchison Bay, on the north side of which there is an extensive dry tundra, home to many Reindeer. There is also a Swedish research station here. As we continue through Hinlopen Strait we are surrounded by icecaps. We will land in Lomfjord, a beautiful fjord surrounded by high mountains. Augustabukta is a lovely bay close to a glacier which is crevasse-free, allowing us to walk without difficulties. On a nearby cliff the rare and beautiful Ivory Gull nests, together with Black Guillemots. Reindeer, Polar Bears and Walrus are usually seen in this area.

We next sail towards the impressive Brasvell glacier. We may take an excursion on Svartknausflya, a desolate polar desert almost devoid of vegetation, or visit Wilhelmøya, which has raised beaches littered with sub fossilised whale skeletons, and where encounters with Polar Bears are likely. Sailing through the narrow Heleysundet between Spitsbergen and Barentsøya can only be done against the current, a very spectacular journey.

As an alternative if conditions do not favour us we will sail through Freemansundet. At Kapp Lee, we walk in beautiful Rosenbergdalen to see Reindeer. For walkers it is great hike from here to Diskobukta. In Diskobukta we visit a large colony of Kittiwakes which nest in a canyon. Arctic Foxes and Polar Bears with young, often roam through the canyon, scavenging on young, flightless birds which fall from the ledges. On the raised beaches there are many sub fossilised whale skeletons.

Kong Ludvigøyane are breeding places for Walrus. On the islands there are also many remains of the whaling, Walrus and Polar Bear hunting periods. Close encounters with Polar Bears are virtually guaranteed here. Continuing our exploration of southern Spitsbergen, we sail into the labyrinth of side fjords in Hornsund. Behind Brepollen, a large glacial deposit at the head of the fjord, we will sail along a beautiful glacier front with good chances of seeing Bearded Seals and Polar Bears. The geological formations in this area are very spectacular and colourful. We will also pay a visit to the Polish research station at Isbjørnhamna, where the friendly crew will discuss their scientific programs.

On our way to Longyearbyen we sail into Bell Sund to reach Ahlstrandhalvøya, with its interesting geological formations and the remains of the 20th century Beluga hunting. It is still a good area for observing Belugas. If time

allows we will pay a visit to Barentsburg, the only inhabited Russian settlement in Spitsbergen, or to Colesbukta, an abandoned Russian coal mining settlement.

Day 16

Departure by scheduled flight from Longyearbyen to Oslo.

South Spitsbergen – Aurora borealis

Longyearbyen – Longyearbyen

NOO15	Oct 10 – Oct 17	07 nights
NOO16	Oct 17 – Oct 24	07 nights
NOO17	Oct 24 – Oct 31	07 nights

Day 1

After arriving in Longyearbyen, the 'capital' (actually the administrative centre) of Spitsbergen, you may wish to visit the Svalbard Museum which has an interesting collection on the history of Spitsbergen, the mining industry and polar exploration. In the afternoon we sail, setting course for Alkhornet, a high cliff. Below the cliffs we often see Arctic Foxes and Reindeer. We continue to Trygghamna to visit the remains of a 17th century English whaling station and an 18th century Russian Pomor station.

Day 2 - 5

We leave Trygghamna early in the morning and sail to the north side of Bell Sund. Bell Sund is a fjord system with two major branches (Van Mijenfjord, Van Keulenfjord) and one smaller side bay (Recherchefjord). The geology is fascinating and has created amazing landscapes, such as the long, narrow island of Akseloya that blocks Van Mijenfjord almost completely. In Fridtjofhamna, the calving glacier Fridtjofbreen is surrounded by picturesque mountains. The rich wildlife of the area has attracted hunters throughout several centuries - we will walk in their footsteps and see remains of their huts, for example at Ahlstrandhalvoya. Recherchefjord is one of the places in Spitsbergen with the highest concentration of historical sites, dating back to 17th century whalers and the mining period of the early 20th century. The glacier Recherchebreen ends at a lagoon, likely to be frozen in October, with many smaller icebergs. Polar bears are likely to be present anywhere in the Bellsund area, and we will keep our eyes open to find them. We have also seen Belugas (White whales) in this area.

Day 6

We will pay a visit to Barentsburg, the only inhabited Russian settlement in Spitsbergen, or to Colesbukta, an abandoned Russian coal mining settlement.

Day 7

We sail into the inner reaches of the Isfjord system, where during nights with open sky we will experience temperatures of minus 10 degrees C, and new ice will be forming on the heads of the fjords.

Day 8

Departure by scheduled flight from Longyearbyen to Oslo.

These October Spitsbergen voyages, at the onset of winter, are ideal for observing the splendid Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights).

NOO19	Nov 10 – Nov 17	07 nights
NOO20	Nov 17 – Nov 24	07 nights
NOO21	Nov 24 – Dec 01	07 nights
NOO22	Dec 01 – Dec 08	07 nights

Day 1

Arrival with public bus in Lødingen. Staying on the sailing-ship “Noorderlicht” in the harbour of Lødingen.

Day 2

Departure from Lødingen and sailing for the Tysfjord. Afternoon landing to climb the hill at Skarvberget which is an outlook post for Sea Eagles. We stay for the night in the small harbour of Korsnes, a village at the entrance of the Tysfjord.

Day 3

Morning walk to the Stone Age petroglyph’s at Leiknes. Images of animals such as a Killer Whale and Elk have been carved into the hard rock in the hills. In the afternoon we sail to the island of Skrova where we arrive late in the afternoon. We stay there for the night. Skrova is a small, rugged island where the 200 inhabitants mainly live from fishery. It is one of the few places in Norway from where whale hunters still hunt for Minke Whales.

Day 4

Morning walk on Skrova. A easy walk brings us to a nice bay on the other side of the island. The active passengers can climb the 255 meters peak of Skrova for the 360° view. Good chances of Sea Eagles during these walks. In the afternoon we sail for Kabelvåg. This beautiful historical village was until the beginning of the 20th century the centre for the Lofoten Cod fisheries.

Day 5

For the hiking minded a morning walk from Kabelvåg to Svolvær is offered, following a hiking path through the hills. The Noorderlicht will sail with the sailing enthusiasts to Svolvær. In the afternoon there is the possibility visit to Svolvær which is the biggest town of Lofoten. We stay for the night in Svolvær so there is a chance to enjoy the famous Svolvær night-life.

Day 6

In the morning we sail into the Trollfjord, a famous steep fjord a few hours sailing from Svolvær. Afterwards we head for Tranøy, on the Norwegian mainland, where we stay for the night.

Day 7

In the morning we walk to the nice lighthouse of Tranøy and admire the works of art that are placed in this small artists village. Tranøy is known because of the Norwegian writer and Nobel-prize winner, Knut Hamsun. With a good wind we might sail in the afternoon to Hustadgaard in Vestbygd. Here we will have the opportunity to see the “Øye I Stein”, “Eye in Stone”, a sculpture of 37 tonnes made by the Indian artist Anish Kapoor. Then we have to head for Lødingen again. Arrival in Lødingen late in the evening and staying there for the night.

Day 8

Disembarkation from the Noorderlicht in the morning, public bus to the airport.

The Lofoten voyages take place in late autumn, when the days are short in Northern Norway. We can expect the first snow showers, and sometimes temperatures just above freezing. The autumn colours will be beautiful during the day time. At night, when there is open sky we may be able to admire the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). The Lofoten voyages are very dependent on the weather, which can be quite rough. Therefore the outline of the voyage, given above is just for guidance.