Welcome to true Arctic adventure. Island-hopping across the region, we sail above 80º N, to take you to the ice edge of the Arctic Ocean while circumnavigating Svalbard. Next, we head to the remote outpost of Jan Mayen before exploring the volcanic home of the sagas: Iceland. Enjoy excursions such as hiking, kayaking and traversing a glacier on this active and exciting voyage.

_Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Iceland - Arctic Islands Exploration_

→ Longyearbyen - Circumnavigating Svalbard - Jan Mayen - Reykjavik

Circumnavigate Svalbard

Try 'brevandring', the Norwegian way to cross a glacier

Great chance of seeing polar bears

Explore Iceland and remote Jan Mayen

The itinerary

This is an expedition where the elements rule, and the weather, wind and ice conditions will determine our final schedule. Safety is paramount and the captain will decide the sailing itinerary during the voyage. Therefore, this itinerary is just an indication of what you can experience, and why every expedition with us is unique.
Departure 27 June 2019
Departs from 
Oslo/Longyearbyen

From 59º N to 78º N
Location: Oslo/Longyearbyen

This Arctic voyage starts with an evening flight from Oslo. Norway's capital is often called 'The blue, the green and the city in between' because of its location nestled between the fjord and the forest. Spend a day checking out the museums, parks and cutting-edge architecture, and relax in one of the many cafés or bars.

Then prepare to enter an entirely different world when you set foot in Longyearbyen after your flight. Amazingly, this town on the edge of the harsh wilderness is a modern oasis, with first-class facilities, charming architecture, an internationally renowned museum and several bars and restaurants – all surrounded by untouched Arctic tundra.

The Norwegian Stronghold in the High Arctic
Location: Longyearbyen, Svalbard

After an overnight stay in one of our hotels, you can join an exciting excursion in unique Longyearbyen and the surrounding area. Here, the Arctic environment dominates, but the town maintains a surprisingly cosmopolitan character. Longyearbyen is often called an antidote to modern-day life and today serves as a prime destination for adventure travelers. Enjoy this remarkable place before boarding MS Fram.

Exploring Huge Fjords with Fascinating History
Location: North West Spitsbergen National Park

The North West Corner is scattered with islands, fjords and beaches. The ocean here can be full of drifting ice especially in the early season and the frozen landscape changes constantly. Due to strong winds and currents, the Captain monitors conditions closely before deciding where we can land or sail. This is why all our itineraries are flexible; we work with the elements, not against them, and safety is our first priority.
Cruise from Svalbard to Iceland: Arctic Island Exploration - June 2019 | Hurtigruten

If we are able to land, this area is excellent for exploring Svalbard's history. You will have the chance to see the remnants of ancient blubber ovens used to render whale oil. We might visit Kongsfjord, considered one of the most beautiful fjord areas in Spitsbergen, with mighty glaciers calving icebergs into the sea, framed by stunning mountain formations. On the shore of Kongsfjord is the former mining settlement of Ny-Ålesund, now an international centre for research, with a picturesque mix of old and new buildings.

In the Magdalenafjorden and Gravneset areas, you may have the chance to actually swim and earn a rare arctic swimming certificate. There will also be exciting hiking and scenic kayaking opportunities, featuring the nearby Gully Glacier.

We may also get to see the enormous Monaco Glacier in Liefdefjord, and enjoy a chance to cruise in small boats.

Enjoy Expedition Days in the Arctic
Location: Eastern Svalbard Nature Reserves and South Spitsbergen National Park

Eastern Svalbard boasts the highest population of polar bears on the archipelago – we have high hopes of seeing one on this journey!

If conditions allow, we will sail to Isflakbukta on Phippsøya, part of Sjuøyane (Seven Islands), which are located at the far north of the Svalbard archipelago. Thousands upon thousands of seabirds mate here, while walrus dive for clams in the bays.

We also aim to cruise in Sorgfjord, which borders the North East Spitsbergen Nature Reserve, and was the site of a famous 17th-century battle between whalers. If the weather is favourable here, we can hike in beautiful Eolsneset or enjoy tender boat cruising in the Hinlopen Strait area.

Another part of our journey may be a visit to Torellneset, which is an excellent place to spot walruses sunning themselves on the flat beach.

We continue on to Edgeøya, the third-largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. On its western shores, the landscape is largely un-glaciated, unlike most other places on the east side of Spitsbergen. Kapp Lee is a wonderful site where you will find cultural heritage from all eras of human exploration of Svalbard. We make our way to the southern cape and the southernmost tip of Spitsbergen, where Hornsund hosts a wonderfully varied landscape and geology. Ice being pushed into the fjord early in the season attracts polar bears that hunt on the floes, so with a bit of luck, we may spot some of these magnificent predators.

Lectures, Photo Courses and Relaxing
Location: At sea

As we start sail south, the Expedition team continue the lecture programme, covering topics related to the areas we sail, and the environmental challenges of the world's oceans in a time of climate change. The expedition photographer will be available to show you the basics of photography. Of course, you will also have time to just enjoy being on board the ship.
Isolated in the Arctic Ocean

Location: Jan Mayen

The Norwegian island of Jan Mayen is one of the most isolated places in the world. Located where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet, the island is dominated by Beerenberg, the northernmost active volcano on earth.

Dutch whalers operated from Jan Mayen in the 16th century, but today only a Norwegian weather station accommodates a few brave individuals throughout the year. Visits to Jan Mayen are extremely rare, especially from tourists. As one of the few vessels operating in this area, MS Fram and her crew will attempt to make a landing on this most exotic Arctic island.

Unwind with a view

Location: At sea

A day at sea means you can join the lectures by the expedition team, spend time on deck or in the Panorama lounge with fellow travellers as we sail towards Iceland. Enjoy a refreshing workout in the ship’s well-equipped fitness room with a panoramic ocean view or let your muscles relax in one of the outdoor whirlpools.

Stunning Sea Cliffs

Location: Reykjafjörður & Hornbjarg Cliff

Reykjafjörður is a pebbly beach nestled between two rock ridges on the north coast. In calm conditions, our tender boats can take us ashore for an expedition landing where we may find shore birds wading along the beach and beautiful spring flowers.

Hornbjarg cliff is located in the remotest place in Iceland, the northwest of the Westfjords. Hundreds of thousands of seabirds use the cliff face as their summer nesting location, species include razor bills, brünnich and common guillemots, kittiwakes and fulmars. To cruise among such abundant wildlife, on the cusp of the breeding season, with the rock face towering 400 metres above is a memory that will stay with you for a long time.
Guarded by sea-monsters

Location: Bildudalur

One of Iceland’s best-kept secrets are the Westfjords, and guarded by the sea monsters of Arnarfjörður, our destination Bildudalur has a reputation as the “good weather capital” of the region. Step ashore to sample life in this remote fishing community or visit the exhibition about the mythical marine beasts. In the late evening hours, we sail around the tip of the Látrabjarg peninsula. If conditions are right, you can see the Bjargtangar lighthouse, Europe’s westernmost point, from the deck.

Glaciers and Lava

Location: Stykkishólmur

As we reach the west region of Iceland, you will understand why this area is dubbed “The Sagaland”. Take your time to explore Stykkishólmur’s diversity with lava and rock formations, glaciers, volcanic activity, and hot and cold springs. Participate in a range of exciting excursions such as kayaking, hiking and horse riding.

End of the Expedition

Location: Reykjavik, Iceland

Reykjavik is the world’s northernmost capital city. Norwegian settlers named the place Reykjavik (meaning ‘Smoky Bay’) after the columns of steam that rose from the hot springs in the area and made a profound impression. The surroundings offer fantastic natural beauty with geysers, mountains, glaciers and geothermal baths that are well worth exploring after disembarking from MS Fram.