

# SPITSBERGEN!

*Explore our Arctic Wonderland!*

**June 27–July 9, 2011**



**Discover the extraordinary Arctic landscapes, glaciers, wildflowers, and wildlife from Polar Bears to Walrus, Arctic Fox to Great Whales!**

**Venture around the shores of the Spitsbergen archipelago, and take walks to discover beautiful wildflowers, scenic peaks, tidewater glaciers, reindeer, and more!**

**This voyage offers an ideal opportunity to explore the Arctic, and to better understand global warming and future Arctic issues.**



**Come bask in the long Arctic summer days in a land of unparalleled beauty, while traveling on board the exciting M/V Plancius.**



**Zodiac cruise along glacier fronts, cruise around breathtaking icebergs, and marvel at the vast unspoiled wilderness which surrounds you.**



*Photos courtesy of Taunya DeYoung and Oceanwide Expeditions.*

## **Taunya's Report from Spitsbergen 2010**



*It is an incredible experience to follow in the wake of the great Arctic explorers and to discover stunning scenery and the multitude of wildlife while learning about the delicate ecosystem of the Arctic.*

*Informative evening discussions carried throughout the ship as both passengers and expedition staff compared their impressions of the day's activities and sightings.*

*Our encounters ranged from witnessing polar bears mothering their fluffy young cubs, to strolling along walrus clad beaches to view them basking in nearly 24 hours of sunlight as pods of white Beluga passed by. We glimpsed an Arctic fox*

*sneaking along the bird shrouded cliffs as the nesters watched over their eggs, while Tern, Eider and Guillemot calls pierced the serene surroundings and reindeer foraged for sprouting tundra plants.*

*Envisioning the grandeur of glaciers clawing their way over the rugged peaks as fjords forced their way out of the dark and lustrous sea was impossible until I was there in person.*

*The thrill of being emerged in the Arctic environment onboard the M/V Plancius is one of my favorite travel experiences. Participating in the Spitsbergen Expedition exceeded every expectation.*

*Anybody who wants to go to Spitsbergen should call me so I can tell you what it was like!*

*Telephone: (800) 252-4910*



**Discover the history of early Arctic exploration and learn about sites where famous Arctic explorers headed north to the Pole by balloon or ship.**

## Itinerary

### Days 1/2 JFK to Oslo

Depart on an IcelandAir flight from JFK International Airport to Reykjavik, connecting with the flight to Oslo. Arrive Oslo on Day 2. Transfer by hotel shuttle and overnight at the *Norlandia Oslo Airport Hotel*.

### Day 3 Oslo to Longyearbyen

Transfer to the Oslo Airport this morning for your flight to 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 plants have been recorded. In the early evening the *M/V Plancius* will sail out of Isfjorden.

### Day 4 Krossfjorden & Ny Alesund

Heading north along the west coast, we arrive by morning in Krossfjorden, where we will take 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 colorful 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 will sail to Ny Alesund, the world's most northerly settlement. Once a mining village—served by the world's most northerly railway, which can still be seen—Ny Alesund is now a research center. 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 5 Ytre Norskøya & Raudfjord fjord

On the offshore island of Ytre Norskøya, we'll visit a 17th century Dutch whaling site, whose large graveyard is a 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. Eastwards, we'll visit Raudfjord on the north coast of West Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord dominated by spectacular glaciers and favored by Ringed and Bearded Seals. The cliffs and



## Arctic Wonderland of SPITS

shoreline of the fjord also support thriving seabird colonies and a surprisingly rich vegetation, which flourishes in sheltered spots. In the evening passengers who select the camping option can go ashore for one night.

### Day 6 Reindyrflya

We will be the whole day in the Raudfjord system, with ample opportunities for kayaking, snow-shoe walking, scuba-diving, and walks. Passengers selecting the optional trek will set off on a three day expedition to the east (with camping at night), to be picked up at the east side of Reindyrflya.

### Day 7 Liefdefjorden/ Monaco Glacier

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 5 km long face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of Kittiwakes and on previous voyages Polar Bears have been seen on the glacier, providing wonderful opportunities for photography. The whole day we will have good opportunities for kayaking, snow-shoe walking, scuba diving, and walks.

### Day 8 Bockfjord & Müllerneset

At Bockfjord there are warm water springs with colorful sediments, close to the shore and about 10 km inland. There is a volcano which erupted thousands of

years ago which we can climb. This is about the warmest area of Spitsbergen with stands of Cassiope and Dryas vegetation. The shores of Woodfjord are littered with hundreds of large timber logs from Siberia. Overall we will have good opportunities for kayaking, snow-shoe walking, scuba diving, and walks.

In late evening we sail to Müllerneset at the east coast of Reindyrflya, in order to pick up the trekking group after three days.

### Day 9 Hinlopen Strait & Alkefjellet

Today we'll 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 10 Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands

Today we'll 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. The ship may sit for several hours in the pack ice, allowing us to take in our spectacular surroundings and look for a Ross Gull before we turn south again.

### Day 11 Prins Karls Forland

We land at the northern tip of Prins

# BERGEN!



Karl 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 found in Spitsbergen. 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 will sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden and land at Alkhorneret. 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 12 Longyearbyen to Oslo

Return to Longyearbyen and disembark for the transfer to the airport and the flight to Oslo. Arrive Oslo. Transfer by hotel shuttle and overnight at the *Norlandia Oslo Airport Hotel*.

### Day 13 Oslo to New York

Depart on Iceland air flight from Oslo to Reykjavik, connecting with the flight to JFK Int'l Airport. Arrive New York (JFK) same day.

**Responsibility:** Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, and the American Chemical Society (ACS) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. Operation of the ship is solely the responsibility of Oceanwide Expeditions. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Map by April Milne.

CST# 2036304-40



## Reservations

#1189

**Yes!** I/We want to join the **Spitsbergen Expedition, June 27-July 9, 2011**. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) on the expedition. As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:  AAAS  Sigma Xi  ACS  Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

Twin  Single  Twin Share with a friend *or*  assign a roommate

Nonsmoker  Smoker

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

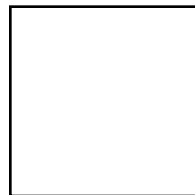
**Mail To:** Spitsbergen Expedition 2011, Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



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AAAS Travels**

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014



**FIRST CLASS**



*Join us... Explore the  
Arctic Wonderland of  
**SPITSBERGEN**  
June 27–July 9, 2011*

## Costs & Conditions

**Expedition Fee:** Voyage rate per person is based on quad or twin share of a cabin with private facilities on board *M/V Plancius* plus air fare of \$725 + tax from New York to Oslo round trip on IcelandAir, and from Oslo to Longyearbyen \$599+ tax on Scandinavian Airways. Plus Oslo airport hotel and transfers.

Quad Cabin .....	\$4,800
Twin Cabin .....	\$6,350
Superior Cabin .....	\$7,150

**Please note:** There are several complimentary trip options on this voyage including trekking, field camping, kayaking, snowshoeing, and photo workshop. Please let us know if you wish to reserve one of these options. Optional scuba diving is an additional cost of \$420 per person.

**Singles:** We encourage singles to register on a "quad share" or "twin share" basis. Your quad or twin share rate on board ship is then guaranteed, and we will assign a roommate for you (not available in Superior cabins). Should you prefer single accommodations, single occupancy is available in the first two cabin categories only at 1.7 times the per person cruise fare.

**Questions?** Please call **Taunya DeYoung**  
Phone: (800) 252-4910  
or (408) 252-4910  
Fax: (408) 252 1444  
Email: taunya@betchartexpeditions.com

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Airport transfers in Longyearbyen; accommodations on board ship quad share or twin share in category of your choice, plus Zodiac and shore excursions, lecture program, meals; port taxes and fees; and administration.

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** Oslo hotel; Oslo transfer by hotel shuttle; air fare (quoted separately); meals except on board ship; tips to ship's crew or naturalists; fuel surcharge if any; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, snacks, alcoholic beverages; fax or email on board ship; gratuity to expedition leader; independent transfers; passport, personal insurance; or foreign airport departure tax.

**What to Expect:** This is a great adventure for modern-day Arctic explorers! You will explore Spitsbergen and the Arctic in mid-summer, when there is almost 24-hours of daylight and the great wilderness of the high Arctic stretches from horizon to horizon, in all its summer glory!

The expedition will allow you to discover first hand the history, geology, glaciers, polar ice cap, wildlife, and rugged beauty north of the Arctic Circle when the Arctic ecosystem is bursting with life from puffins to polar bears. Expect temperatures in the 30's to 50's with a sea breeze. Walks during shore excursions will be brief, and may be over damp or uneven terrain, glacial ice, or snow. The itinerary is subject to changes that may arise due to weather or sea conditions beyond our control. The ship's captain has the final word on any decision made with regard to the vessel's itinerary, and it is understood that such decisions will be made in the best interests of the safety of the passengers and vessel. With this in mind, you will have a once-in-a-lifetime voyage of discovery and adventure! (No smoking in vehicles, or during lectures or meals, please.)

**M/V Plancius:** The *Plancius* is a newly remodeled Dutch oceanographic vessel with a comfortable, spacious Scandinavian interior.

It accommodates 114 passengers in 53 outside cabins with portholes or windows. Cabins have private bathrooms with ample storage space. Public areas include a restaurant/lecture room, and spacious observation lounge with bar. Views are excellent from the large, open decks and the navigation bridge, where we are almost always welcome. The chefs produce a varied menu and the comfortable bar is stocked with a good selection of wine. The crew is highly experienced in ice navigation. The Ice Master and lecturers are from an international team. The atmosphere aboard is relaxed and informal, like a private expedition for you and friends.

**Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:** Air fare quoted is an estimated group fare with IcelandAir from JFK to Oslo, round trip and with SAS Oslo to Longyearbyen, round trip. Please call for assistance with flights, Taunya, (800) 252-4910. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments:** To reserve a place on this expedition, please telephone Taunya DeYoung at Betchart, (800) 252 4910 and mail a deposit of \$1,500 per person to:

**Spitsbergen Expedition  
Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435.**

Balance is due 120 days before departure (February 25, 2011).

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit is refundable up to 120 days before departure less a cancellation fee of \$700 per person. There is no refund after the 120-day period. There are no refunds for unused meals, or other expedition features.