Arctic Wonderland!
Realm of the Great White Bears!

Spitsbergen
July 14-26, 2009
EXPLORE OUR ARCTIC WONDERLAND
SPITSBERGEN!

July 14-26, 2009

Come bask in the long Arctic summer days in a land of unparalleled beauty, while traveling on board M/V Antarctic Dream. Discover the extraordinary Arctic landscapes, glaciers, wildflowers, and wildlife from Polar Bears to Walrus, Arctic Fox to Great Whales! Discover the history of early Arctic exploration and learn about sites where famous Arctic explorers headed north to the Pole by balloon or ship. Venture around the shores of the Spitsbergen archipelago, and take walks to discover beautiful wildflowers, scenic peaks, tidewater glaciers, reindeer, and more! Zodiac cruise along glacier fronts, cruise around breathtaking icebergs, and marvel at the vast unspoiled wilderness which surrounds you. This voyage offers an ideal opportunity to explore the Arctic, and to better understand global warming and future economic development issues.

Please Note: Our Spitsbergen voyage includes a discount of $700+ per person over the ship company’s retail rates! We hope you will be able to take advantage of this special offer!

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 (1 night).

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 Antarctic Dream will sail out of Isfjorden.

Day 4 Krossfjorden & Ny Alesund

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 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 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 5**  Liefdefjorden & Monaco Glacier

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 favorite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes and occasionally polar bears are seen on the glacier.

**Day 6**  Phippsøya

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 7**  Laagøya/ Sorg Fjord

We will visit Laagøya 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 Walruses not far from the graves of 17th century whalers. On a nature walk, we may encounter families of ptarmigans.

**Day 8**  Alkefjellet/Palanderbukta

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 9**  Torrelneset

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 walruses along the way. Sailing south of Nordaustlandet we will have good chance to see Greenland Whales.

**Day 10**  Sundneset - Barentsoya

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 11**  Hornsund

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 12  Van Keulenfjorden

Today we land on Ahlstrandhalvøya at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden. Here piles of Beluga whale skeletons, 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 13  Longyearbyen to Oslo & New York

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

COSTS & CONDITIONS

**Expedition Fee:** Per person based on twin share of a cabin on board *M/V Antarctic Dream* plus air fare of $600 + tax from New York to Oslo round trip on IcelandAir, and from Oslo to Longyearbyen $599+ tax on Scandinavian Airways.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabin Category</th>
<th>Price per Person Twin Share + Air</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twin Cabin (inside) with private facilities</td>
<td>$4,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Cabin (outside) with private facilities</td>
<td>$5,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior Cabin</td>
<td>$6,995</td>
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**Please note:** These are special, discounted rates for Betchart travelers.

**Singles:** We encourage singles to register on a “twin share” basis. Your twin share rate on board ship is then guaranteed, and we 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 1.8 times the per-person cruise fare.

**Questions?** Please phone **Marisa Eide (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910.** Fax: (408) 252 1444. Email: marisa@betchartexpeditions.com

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Hotel near Oslo airport (twin share basis) including breakfast and transfer by hotel shuttle for a small fee; airport transfers in Longyearbyen; accommodations on board ship 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:** Air fare (quoted separately); meals in Oslo except breakfast; tips to ship’s crew or naturalists; fuel surcharge if any; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, snacks, alcoholic beverages; fax or email communication on board ship; gratuity to expedition leader; independent transfers; passport, personal insurance; foreign airport departure tax.
RESERVATIONS

YES! I/We want to join the Spitsbergen Expedition, July 14-26, 2009, offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for $__________ ($1,000 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) __________________________________________ Age ________ Sex ________

__________________________________________ Age ________ Sex ________

Address ______________________________________________________________________

City ________________________________________ State ____________ ZIP ____________

Phone: Home (____) _________________________ Work (____) _______________________

Email #1: ________________________________ #2: _________________________________

Membership (please circle): AAAS  Sigma Xi  ACS  Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference: _____ Twin       _____ Twin share       _____ Single

_____ Nonsmoker       _____ Smoker

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________________

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________________

Please mail to: 2009 Spitsbergen Expedition
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

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-hour 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 30s to 50s 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 Antarctica Dream: The Antarctic Dream accommodates 78 passengers on 4 decks in 39 comfortable suites and cabins. Cabins have private bathrooms, ample storage space and TV. Public areas include a lounge, bar, lecture room, library, infirmary (there is a doctor on board), gym, sauna,
and a boutique. 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, more like a private expedition than a cruise.

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

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments:** To reserve a place on this expedition, please phone Marisa Eide at Betchart, (800) 252 4910 and mail a deposit of $1000 per person to: Spitsbergen Expedition, Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435. Balance is due 90 days before departure.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit is refundable up to 120 days before departure less a handling fee of $250 per person. There is no refund after the 120-day period unless your place is resold, then only a $250 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, or other expedition features.

**Responsibility:** Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercises every care possible. **Operation of the ship is solely the responsibility of Oceanwide Expeditions.** Betchart 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, terrorism, quarantine, 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. © 2009 Betchart Expeditions Inc. All rights reserved. CST#2036304-40
Betchart Expeditions - Spitsbergen

SPITSBERGEN

NORDAUSTLANDET

Oscar II Land

Ny Alesund

Prins Karls Forland

Spitsbergen

Barentsøya

Edgeøya

Longyearbyen

Barentsburg

Moffen

Smeerenburg

JULY 14th GLACIER

Isfjorden

Hornsund

Hopen

Arctic Circle

Arctic Ocean

Norway

Sweden

Finland