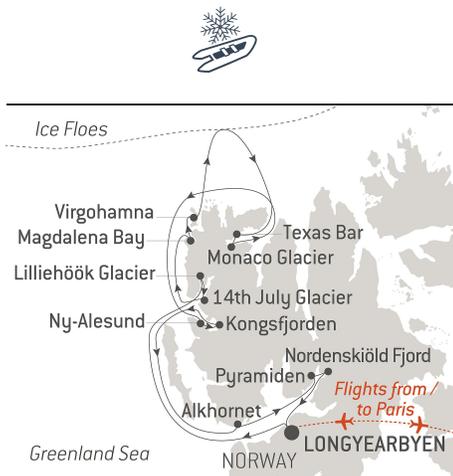


The Best of Spitsbergen

From **7/25/2020**
to **8/1/2020**

Ship: **LE BOREAL**

From **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**
to **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**



PONANT invites you to experience something exceptional by discovering the **Far North** and the immense open spaces of the **polar Arctic** and its ice floes that extend to the North Pole.

You will board the ship at **Longyearbyen in Norway** for an **8-day expedition cruise** to the heart of **Spitsbergen**, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago.

Over these expedition at sea aboard your ship, in the company of our specialist teams, you will discover the **exceptional flora and fauna** that lives in these extreme conditions, where temperatures reach -30°C in winter.

This journey will take you on the trail of **walrus**, which can be admired near the **14th July Glacier**, as well as the traces of the **polar bear**, the lord of the Arctic, which you will be able to admire in its natural environment.

Then you will sail to the **Svalbard archipelago**, and the last islands before the North Pole, where you will discover that unique feeling of having reached the top of the world. During this unforgettable expedition, our ship will sail to latitudes of 80° north.

Itinerary is subject to change according to port authorizations and government regulations. We are privileged guests in these remote lands where we are at the mercy of weather, ice, tidal and current conditions. Landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the AECO.



The information in this document is valid as of 8/6/2020

The Best of Spitsbergen

YOUR STOPOVERS :

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Embarkation 7/25/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 7/25/2020 at 18h00

Longyearbyen is the capital of the Norwegian **Svalbard** archipelago, located on **Svalbard's** main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.

LILLIEHÖÖK GLACIER

Arrival 7/26/2020

Departure 7/26/2020

Welcome to Cross Bay's décor of **plutonic rocks** and tundra. Admire the immense expanses of flowers that cover the mountain slopes, amidst **14 alpine glaciers** plunging majestically into the sea. In this setting of wild beauty, which **endemic wildlife** has chosen to call home, set off to discover the sublime **Lilliehöök Glacier**. Located in the fjord of the same name, it forms a kind of circle and its front is 7 km wide. As you approach it, you will fall under the spell of the **icebergs** floating around it, like jewels bedecking the magical waters of the Arctic. Walruses, sea birds, seals and Svalbard reindeer will perhaps accompany as you explore these unique places.

14TH JULY GLACIER, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/26/2020

Departure 7/26/2020

At the entrance to Cross Bay, between tundra, plutonic rocks and mountains covered with a surprising endemic flora, set off to discover the **14th July Glacier**. It was thus named by **Prince Albert I of Monaco**, following an expedition that he led there at the beginning of the 20th century. The glacier's surroundings are frequented by **numerous birds** (Tridactyl gulls, thick-billed murres, barnacle geese, common eiders, Atlantic puffins...), as well as **Arctic foxes** and **reindeer**. As you arrive in front of the glacier, admire the impressive wall of ice and the reflection of the cliffs in the water. It is quite common to see a section of ice come loose, or a bearded seal lounging on an iceberg.

MAGDALENEFJORDEN (MAGDALENA BAY), SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/27/2020

Departure 7/27/2020

Nestling in north western Spitsbergen, **Magdalena Bay** is one of Svalbard's unmissable sites. In a spectacular landscape of snow-topped Alpine mountains, deep fjords, beaches and **majestic glaciers**, it offers multiple opportunities for wonderment. We will not be surprised to observe whales, walruses, seals, common eiders, terns, polar bears and Arctic foxes there. The site of **Gravneset**, located in Magdalenafjorden, is home to the remnants of a **former whaling station** used during the 17th century, as well as the **graves of many sailors** buried here up until the end of the 18th century. Not far from here, the Gully Glacier offers a magnificent view, a delight for photographers.

VIRGOHAMNA, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/27/2020

Departure 7/27/2020

Welcome to a land of rich history! **Virgoamna**, or Virgo Bay, to the north west of Spitsbergen, was home to a whaling station in the 17th century. Above all, though, it is known as the staging area for many attempts to reach the North Pole by **balloon**. In 1896, Swedish balloonist Andrée set up camp here and lifted off a year later with two team members on a trip that would cost them their lives. A few years later, the American explorer Wellmann also attempted this crazy adventure, without success. During your visit, you will be able to see a pile of planks, rusty cans, pipes, debris from earthenware and all kinds of waste on the ground. Visitors are asked to respect these **historic remnants**, in homage to the conquerors of the poles.

SAILING AMONG ICEBERGS

Arrival 7/28/2020

Departure 7/28/2020

Your ship carefully weaves in and out of the **icebergs**. These ice giants, which at times are more than 60 metres high, come from the glaciers and the **ice cap**. Whether grounded or floating, pure white blocks or in eroded form, sparkling or blue-tinged, this is always a magical moment to experience on board the ship or on a **Zodiac® dinghy**. Each iceberg, sculpted by the waves, takes on diverse colours and shapes that have fuelled the imagination of the peoples of the Arctic.

TEXAS BAR, LIEFDEFJORDEN

Arrival 7/29/2020

Departure 7/29/2020

Despite the name given to the place, we are neither in Texas nor in a bar; it is actually an unusual place in the High Arctic. **Texas Bar** is a former trapper's hut that was used by Arctic fox and polar bear hunters in the past. The hut, still in place, has a rudimentary interior with bunkbeds and kitchen utensils. Located at the entrance to **Liefdefjorden** (the "**fjord of love**")

”), it stands peacefully in a landscape of hills covered with moss, lichen and flowers. The cliffs with their changing colours, very frequented by birds, complete the beauty of the panorama. Take a little hike up the slopes and admire the superb view over the **Monaco Glacier**, which is further south.

MONACO GLACIER, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/29/2020

Departure 7/29/2020

Located to the North-West of the Svalbard archipelago, **the Monaco Glacier** is probably one of Spitsbergen's most beautiful and majestic. Named in honour of **Prince Albert I of Monaco**, a sailor, it stands as an impenetrable, blue-tinted jagged wall, the last glacier before reaching a latitude of 80° North. Imagine the sound of the ice cracking as it breaks free and crashes into the **transparent water**. And to make the magical landscape even more perfect, you might be lucky enough to spot **bears** and **whales**, as these two animals have a special fondness for this area.

NY-ALESUND, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/30/2020

Departure 7/30/2020

During your cruise, discover **Ny-Ålesund**, a former mining town that has been transformed into a scientific base. Founded in 1916, this small town was the departure point for many Arctic expeditions, including those of the famous explorer **Roald Amundsen**. Don't miss a visit to the museum and its famous post office, considered to be the most northerly in the world!

KONGSFJORDEN (KING BAY), SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/30/2020

Departure 7/30/2020

Very close to the former mining town of Ny-Ålesund, set off to discover **Kings Bay**. Your ship will sail in one of the most beautiful fjords in Svalbard: **Kongsfjorden** (the fjord of the King), a gateway to grandiose landscapes. Here, the snow-capped mountains are reflected in the water where superb **icebergs** try to outdo each other in their beauty, a delight for photographers. **Bearded seals, reindeer**, barnacle geese and black guillemots frequent these places that have a unique atmosphere. Once you arrive at the end of the fjord, admire the **Kongsbreen** (glacier of the King) and its three characteristic rocky points, which take their names from three Scandinavian countries: Svea (Sweden), Dana (Denmark) and Nora (Norway).

ALKHORNET, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/31/2020

Departure 7/31/2020

At the northern entrance of Isfjorden, there is a small paradise for bird lovers: the **Alkhornet Cliff**. It is home to a very

rich avifauna, made up of thousands of birds frolicking in a joyous tumult: **gulls, guillemots, pink-footed geese, terns, seagulls, puffins, Arctic skuas**... The Alkhorneret Cliff, easily recognisable by its rhinoceros-horn shape, is also frequented by reindeer, which are not overly timid. Attracted by the tundra that covers the foot of the mountain, they come to graze in peace in a verdant setting covered with grass and moss. With a little luck, you will perhaps have the opportunity to see some seals and Arctic foxes, who are also regular visitors.

PYRAMIDEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/31/2020

Departure 7/31/2020

This port of call will definitely make an impression on history enthusiasts. A real ghost town, **Pyramiden** was founded by Sweden at the beginning of the 20th century before being sold a few years later to the Soviet Union. Constructed at the foot of a mountain in the form of a pyramid, this **former mining town**, abandoned in 1998, has conserved all the buildings from its glory days, when it lived off coal mining. During your visit, you will be able to walk past a swimming pool, swings, a football pitch and a cinema. Even more unusual: reindeer like to wander the deserted streets of this **dead town**, the only companions for the handful of men who still live there in summer.

NORDENSKIÖLD FJORD, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/31/2020

Departure 7/31/2020

In the Billefjorden, one of the three branches of the **Isfjorden**, you will approach the majestic **Nordenskiöld Glacier**, right opposite Pyramiden, a former Russian mining settlement. This **wall of ice** with turquoise blue reflections, whose name is a tribute to the Finnish geologist Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld (1832-1901), is 25 km long and 11 km wide. You could be lucky enough to see a **polar bear** walking along the coastal ice or the surrounding rocks.

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 8/1/2020 early morning

Disembarkation 8/1/2020 at 07h00

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