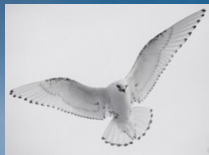


N. SPITSBERGEN: Into the Pack Ice Special Polar Bear - Summer Solstice Voyage

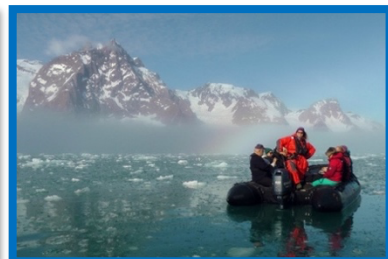
June 14 - 24, 2027

Experience the high Arctic summer solstice with an expedition that visits some of the top sites of North Spitsbergen. Explore amazing glaciers, fascinating historical sites, bountiful seabird colonies, and sprawling fjord systems in which there is a good chance of spotting whales, seals, and possibly even polar bears.

Join us! And discover the high peaks, large seabird colonies, and best places to spot polar bears in NE Spitsbergen!

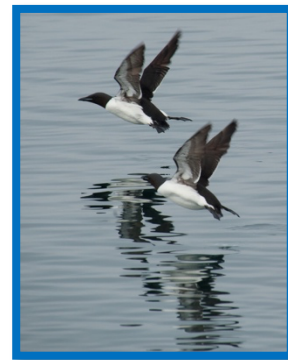


The midnight sun is a phenomenon that occurs during the Arctic summer, when the sun is visible for a full 24 hours in fair weather. The summer solstice in Longyearbyen falls on 21 June. The term solstice (Latin solstitium) means “sun-stopping” and describes the point on the horizon at which the sun appears to rise and set, stopping and reversing directions after this day. On the solstice, the sun does not rise precisely in the east but rather north of east, then later sets to the north of west, making the sun visible for a longer period of time. It will not be until late August that the sun fully goes down again, and then only for a few minutes. Join us in experiencing this fascinating phenomenon during this voyage through the Arctic wilderness of Svalbard!



Betchart Expeditions Inc. 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014

Phone (408) 252 4910 or Email: Info@betchartexpeditions.com



ITINERARY

Mon Jun 14, 2027 Depart on overnight flights to Oslo.
Arrive Oslo on **Tue, Jun 15.** *Independent overnight, Oslo.*

Wed June 16 Voyage Day 1 Oslo to Longyearbyen, Largest Town, Biggest Island

Take a morning flight from Oslo to arrive Longyearbyen mid-day. Touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen and largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. In the early evening the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where you might spot the first minke whale of your voyage.

Thur June 17 - 22 Voyage Days 2 - 7 N. Spitsbergen's Natural Beauty, Wildlife, and Multi-Day Pack-Ice
This voyage will take you into the pack ice and along the remote shorelines of rugged north Spitsbergen.

Places we might visit include the following:

Raudfjord

On the north coast of Spitsbergen, you can enjoy this expansive fjord spilling with glaciers – and maybe even visited by ringed and bearded seals. The cliffs and shoreline also support thriving seabird colonies, rich vegetation, and the possibility of polar bears. We will try to land at Alicehamna or Buchananhalvøya.

Monaco Glacier

Depending on the weather and sea ice, we could sail into Liefdefjorden, land at Texas Bar and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this precipitous glacier are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and the base of the ice is a popular polar bear hunting ground. If ice conditions prevent us from sailing here early in the season, we may sail along the west coast of Spitsbergen.

The Seven Islands

The northernmost point of the voyage may be north of Nordaustlandet, in the Seven Islands. Here we may reach 80° north, just 870 km (540 miles) from the geographic North Pole. At Phippsøya there is a walrus haul-out site, while Rossøya is the northernmost landmass in Spitsbergen. The vessel may sail deeper into the pack ice when wheeling around west again.

Sailing in the Pack Ice

We aim to sail into the pack ice at quite some distance from the coast of Spitsbergen, watching for polar bears and other animals at the edges of the pack. Our voyage through the pack ice may be a multi-day affair, depending on the position of the ice and local sea and weather conditions. Regardless of how long we spend in the ice, these days at sea will be a highlight of the trip. Note that while the ship navigates the pack ice, we will not make any shore landings or excursions from the ship. However, wildlife encounters are the main draw here, with good chances to encounter many species that thrive in this icy habitat, including polar bears, seals, and whales. After our time on the ice, we will retrace our route west, keeping watch for polar bears, ringed seals, and elusive Greenland (bowhead) whales. This is also the habitat of ivory gulls. About 40 nautical miles (74 km) west of Spitsbergen, we will sail along the edge of the continental shelf. Here, fin whales forage during the summer in the upwelling zones (where cold, nutrient-rich water wells up from below the sea's surface) that run along the Spitsbergen banks. At the mouth of Kongsfjorden, you will have a good chance of sighting minke whales.

Forlandsundet Wildlife

Walrus sometimes haul out in Forlandsundet, at Poolepynten. But if we cannot go there, we might sail to the mouth of Isfjorden, where we may see different species of rorqual whales. Our intended landing site is Alkhornet, where seabirds nest on the cliffs, Arctic foxes search below for fallen eggs and chicks, and reindeer graze the sparse vegetation. Another possibility is the glacier front in Ymerbukta, where you can see congregations of various eider duck species.



Wed June 23 Longyearbyen & Return flight to Oslo Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. You disembark in Longyearbyen, taking home memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies. Take afternoon flight to Oslo, and overnight. **Thur June 24 Oslo – Home.**

ABOUT THE SHIP: The ice-strengthened vessel “*Ortelius*” is an excellent vessel for Polar expedition cruises in the Arctic & Antarctica, providing us with possibilities to adventure remote locations. “*Ortelius*” was built in Gdynia, Poland in 1989, originally named “*Marina Svetaeva*”, as a special purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. The vessel is re-flagged and renamed “*Ortelius*”. The vessel has the highest ice-class notation (UL1 equivalent to 1A) and is therefore very suitable to navigate. Expect simple but comfortable cabins and public spaces, comfortable hotel standard, with two restaurants, a bar/lecture room. Voyages are primarily developed to offer passengers a quality exploratory wildlife program, trying to spend as much time ashore as possible. As the number of passengers is limited to approximately 108 on the “*Ortelius*”, flexibility assures maximum wildlife opportunities.

Contact Betchart Expeditions Inc.

Telephone: 1 (408) 252-4910 or 1 (800) 252-4910 (USA),

Email: info@betchartexpeditions.com

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Voyage Fees: Are per person twin, triple, or quad share (depending on cabin category) cruise only, for 7 nights on board *M/V Ortelius*. Air fare + pre/post hotel nights, and transfers are additional.

<u>Category:</u>			
_____	Quad Porthole	\$4,800 per person based on 4 per cabin	
_____	Triple Porthole	\$5,950 per person based on 3 per cabin	
_____	Twin Porthole	\$6,650 per person based on 2 per cabin or _____	Solo \$11,305
_____	Twin Window	\$7,200 per person based on 2 per cabin or _____	Solo \$12,240
_____	Twin Deluxe	\$7,700 per person based on 2 per cabin or _____	Solo \$13,090
_____	Superior	\$8,700 per person based on 2 per cabin or _____	Solo \$14,790

Singles: Should you desire single accommodations, see the solo cabin rate above. Singles can also register on a “twin share” basis, or book a berth in a quad share.

Expedition Fee Includes: 7 nights accommodations on board ship; meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea; shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac; use of rubber boots; program lectures by naturalists; leadership, and administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare to Longyearbyen, Norway; Oslo hotels, meals and transfers. Longyearbyen transfers, snacks, or activities; passport and visa expenses; government arrival and departure taxes; fuel surcharges; meals ashore; baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (emergency medical & evacuation coverage is mandatory); airline baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and communication charges; the customary gratuity to ship’s crew and naturalists; other items of a personal nature.

What to Expect: This is a great adventure for modern-day Arctic explorers! The expedition will allow you to look for polar bears and other wildlife of the Arctic and to learn about climate change in the Arctic first hand. We will also discover the history, geology, glaciers, polar ice cap, and rugged beauty north of the Arctic Circle, with an excellent team of naturalists on board ship. Expect temperatures in the 30’s to 50’s. Walks may be over damp or uneven tundra or possibly ice or snow (rubber boots will be provided). 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 interest of the safety of the vessel and all passengers on board. With this in mind, you will have a once-in-a-lifetime voyage of discovery and adventure.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: Please contact Betchart Expeditions Inc. to reserve a space: Telephone: 1 (408) 252-4910 or 1 (800) 252-4910 (USA), Email: info@betchartexpeditions.com

Deposit of 25% of voyage fare per person is due to confirm your space.

Full payment is due at Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014 no later than 120 days prior (February 10, 2027). Payment by Check or Bank Wire payment only.

Cancellations & Refunds: 5% of your voyage fare is refundable until February 10, 2027. Within 120 days prior to departure there is no refund of payments. There is no refund for any cancellation after your final payment has been received. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. No refunds are made for unused services.

Insurance. The ship’s operator, Oceanwide Expeditions, requires that all travelers have Emergency Evacuation Insurance for this Arctic voyage in the unlikely case of a medical evacuation/repatriation.

Health: This expedition is physically demanding and you should be in general good health and able to walk short – medium distances over uneven and rough terrain. Since you are traveling to a remote area without access to sophisticated medical facilities you must not join this expedition if you have a life-threatening condition.

RESERVATIONS

#1805

Mail Res Form & Deposit Check to: Betchart Expeditions, 17050 Montebello Rd, Cupertino CA 95014

YES! I/We want to join the North Spitsbergen, 7-night Pack Ice, Polar Bears, Summer Solstice Voyage, onboard *MV Ortelius* June 16-22, 2027 offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve _____ space(s) and include a deposit of \$_____ (25% of voyage fare, per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust. I/we understand full payment is due no later than February 10, 2027 by check or wire.

Name(s) _____ Age _____ Sex _____

_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

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

Accommodations Preference:

Prices are cruise only, per person based on twin share (or triple, quad) + air + pre/post night arrangements:

Category:

_____	Quad Porthole	\$4,800 per person based on 4 per cabin	
_____	Triple Porthole	\$5,950 per person based on 3 per cabin	
_____	Twin Porthole	\$6,650 per person based on 2 per cabin	or _____ Solo \$11,305
_____	Twin Window	\$7,200 per person based on 2 per cabin	or _____ Solo \$12,240
_____	Twin Deluxe	\$7,700 per person based on 2 per cabin	or _____ Solo \$13,090
_____	Superior	\$8,700 per person based on 2 per cabin	or _____ Solo \$14,790

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent in booking passengers on this cruise program and with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. Operation of the ship is solely the responsibility of Oceanwide Expeditions, Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the suppliers providing air and other transportation and land services and assumes no responsibility, however caused, for your personal or property loss or damage in connection with any service. Betchart Expeditions Inc. 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, alternate ship, 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. ©2020 Betchart Expeditions Inc. preliminary 1/30/20. All rights reserved. Prices quoted are based on group participation, and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which passengers choose not to participate, including any optional excursions (if applicable and which at the discretion of the captain and expedition leader may or may not be utilized). It should be understood that refunds will not be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for any reason whatsoever. Oceanwide Expeditions (Operator hereafter) reserves the right to cancel any departure due to insufficient reservations up to eight weeks before the date of departure (passengers may be offered alternative cruise dates). Operator also reserves the right to cancel any departure up until the date of that departure due to force majeure, compelling reason, or other circumstances beyond the control of Operator that prevents the operation of the tour (this also includes governmental and administrative decisions). Operator or its agents are not responsible for any costs or penalties relating to air transport or other services that are cancelled. Operator is not liable for failure to provide the services or accommodations offered to the extent that such services or accommodations cannot be provided due to force majeure, delay in vessel completion, or other circumstances beyond its control. Passengers and staff members who participate in tours, operated by Operator, agree that any photographs or video, that include their person, may be used by Operator and its associates for promotional purposes. Passengers may not charge for their appearance in any photographs or video. By forwarding a deposit the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/her or other passengers. Operator reserves the right to cancel or withdraw any person as a member of a tour at any time. By purchasing this product you accept the above Terms and Conditions. In case you disagree to any of the Terms and Conditions of Operator you will not be able to take part in the expedition cruise. Photos courtesy Oceanwide Expeditions & Taunya DeYoung.
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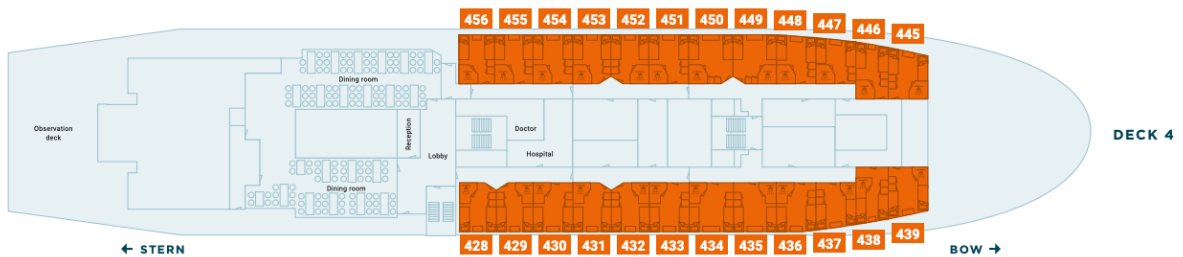
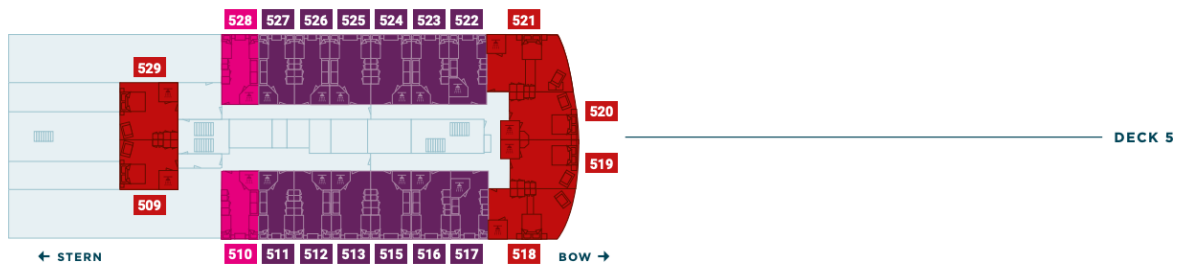
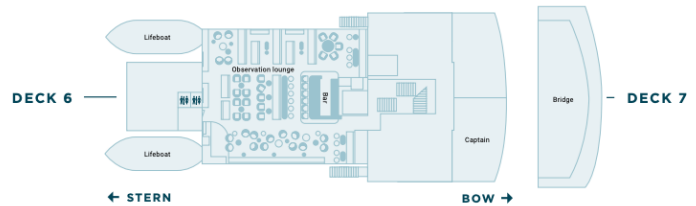
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M/V ORTELIUS

ROOM TYPES

- Superior
- Twin Deluxe
- Twin Window
- Twin Porthole
- Twin Porthole plus additional third bed
- Quadruple Porthole



Superior



Twin Deluxe

