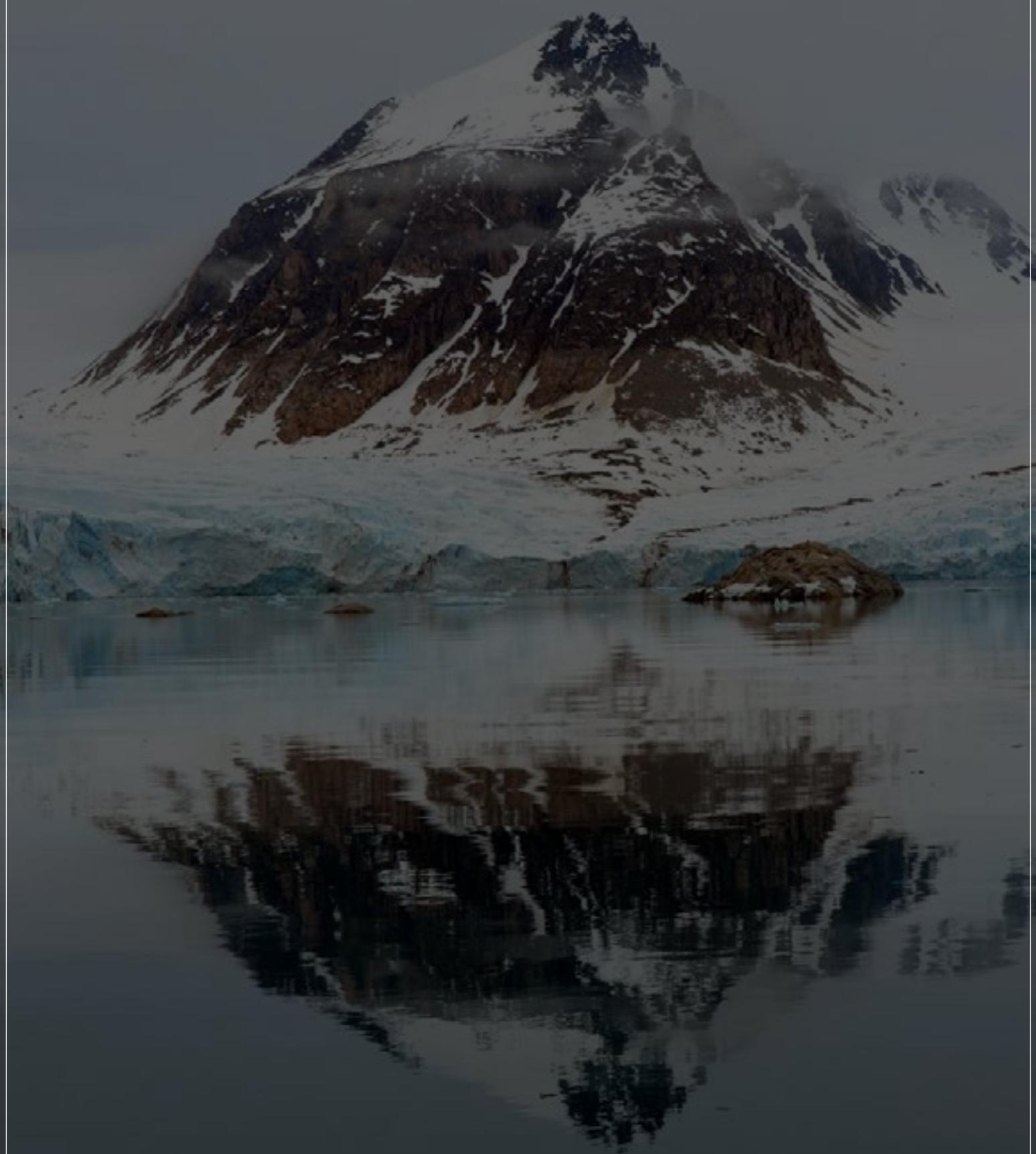




# NORTH SPITSBERGEN HIKE, SKI & SAIL



2024 TRIP NOTES





# NORTH SPITSBERGEN —HIKE, SKI & SAIL TRIP NOTES



## 2024 TRIP DETAILS

**Dates:** Trip 1: May 15–22, 2024  
Trip 2: May 22–29, 2024

**Duration:** 8 days

**Departure:** ex Longyearbyen, Norway

**Price:** From US\$3,300 per person

▲ Explore the Svalbard archipelago from the comfort of our sailing ship base. Photo: Philipp Schaudy

Our North Spitsbergen—Hike, Ski & Sail Expedition is a journey into Norway’s Arctic wilderness, reaching remote corners of a grand landscape, home to whales, walrus and Arctic foxes. Day excursions from the ship offer the opportunity to experience the Arctic in a way few others will, with options for hiking, snowshoeing and ski mountaineering in this remote and rugged land.

## EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

At the end of a long Arctic winter, spring is starting to awaken but the climate still clings to the cold, with snow blanketing the mountains and freezing the shores. It’s the perfect time of year to experience some of the world’s remotest hiking and snowshoeing adventures in this wild land, and with a little luck, also see some polar bears, walrus and seals.

Our North Spitsbergen—Hike, Ski & Sail Expedition sails from the Arctic town of Longyearbyen in Norway’s Svalbard archipelago. From our comfortable sailing ship base, we will explore the best of Spitsbergen with day excursions to the shore for every level of hiker. The expedition also offers opportunities for guided nature cruises and, for the experienced, the option of ski mountaineering. It’s the ultimate way to experience the Arctic tundra in this unique and rarely-visited corner of the world.

## THE VESSEL

The *Rembrandt Van Rijn* was originally built as a herring lugger in 1947 before being remodelled as a three-mast passenger sailing schooner in 1994. The vessel underwent an additional rebuilding and refurbishment programme in 2011, including a complete renewal of communication and navigation systems.

The ship is well suited for expedition cruising through small islands and offers fantastic open deck viewing areas. The two inflatable rubber crafts (Zodiacs) enable landing and wildlife viewing opportunities in otherwise inaccessible areas.

With space to accommodate 33 passengers, the ship’s cabins all enjoy ensuite facilities and include one Triple Private cabin with porthole, six Twin Private Interior cabins and nine Twin Private cabins with porthole.



▲ Stunning spring hiking days. Photo: Jörg Berning

## PRE-REQUISITE EXPERIENCE

The expedition is ship-based and although we spend as much time as possible ashore, you are welcome to remain aboard the ship if you like. We travel in remote areas without access to sophisticated medical facilities, so you should be in good general health.

For basic snowshoeing and hiking excursions you just need to be in reasonably good shape and health. These day trips usually last between 2 and 6 hours. Keep in mind that there are no paths and that you will be travelling over fairly rugged terrain and will be taking on some hills.

Those who wish to take part in our ski mountaineering activities should be experienced ski mountaineers who have mastered techniques for both ascent and descent in challenging, snow-covered alpine terrain. Participants must be in good physical condition, as a typical day involves climbs on mountaintops averaging heights of 800–1,100m/2,600–3,600ft) and downhill skiing from those points. The accumulated altitude over a given day can exceed 1,000m/3,300ft. Skiers will be asked to fill out a questionnaire highlighting ski mountaineering experience.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is a US\$510 supplement for those taking part in our ski mountaineering programme/

## TEAM SIZE

The *Rembrandt Van Rijn* can accommodate 33 passengers with an experienced crew of 12 personnel, including 2 tour guides.

## ITINERARY

Dates: Trip 1: May 15–22, 2024  
Trip 2: May 22–29, 2024

Following is an ideal itinerary for our North Spitsbergen—Hike, Ski & Sail Expedition.

Day 1	Arrive in Longyearbyen, Norway, board the vessel and sail for Trygghamna.
Day 2	Day excursion to the sea cliff at Alkhornet.
Days 3–4	Sail north for Kongsfjorden and Krossfjorden, with opportunities to snowshoe and visit historic sites.
Day 5	Head south between Spitsbergen and Prins Karls Forland, possible walrus and seal sightings at Poolepynten.
Days 6–7	Sail back into Isfjorden, possible outings at Ymerbukta and Ekmanfjorden.
Day 8	Return to Longyearbyen to disembark, trip ends.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A specific route cannot be determined in advance due to variable weather, sea, wildlife and avalanche considerations.



▲ Be dwarfed by the vast landscape. Photo: Philipp Schaudy

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1

Arrive in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around the town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. In the early evening we sail out of Isfjorden, where we might spot the first minke whale of our voyage. We head for Trygghamna, where we will see the remains of a 17th-century English whaling station and 18th-century Pomor hunting station, both of which we can visit the following morning.

### Day 2

From Trygghamna, we hike to Alkhornet, a large seabird cliff and breeding site. Below the cliff is a common place to spot Arctic foxes and reindeer.

### Days 3–4

We head north for Kongsfjorden and Krossfjorden. The landscape here is wintry, the crags and slopes still blanketed with snow. Here there are rich opportunities for hiking, snowshoeing and visiting places of historic interest, including the remains of early 20th-century marble mining at Ny London and the northernmost community in the

world at Ny Ålesund. There are also research stations and the famous anchor mast of the dirigible Norge, which took the first flight across the North Pole to Nome, Alaska in 1926. Krossfjorden offers views of colossal glaciers and lofty mountain peaks, but ultimately the extent of fjord ice dictates the itinerary here.

### Day 5

Cutting south between the main island of Spitsbergen and Prins Karls Forland, we may encounter walrus at Poolepynten, a common haul-out site. We also have views of St Johns fjorden, near Gaffelbreen. The winter ice may not have loosened its grip on the water here, and seals (ringed and bearded) could be numerous in the area.

### Days 6–7

We now double back into Isfjorden and venture to Ymerbukta, taking time to enjoy this mountainous area. Here we find an expansive tundra with its own avifauna, as well as spectacular geological formations along the coast. Further northeast, near Ekmanfjorden, we have the chance for another disembarkation. There are numerous glaciers here that terminate near or in the sea. In Gipsvika we can go on shore near the cliff of Templet, a mountainous location of eroded sedimentary rock from around 290 million years ago.

## Day 8

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. We disembark in Longyearbyen, taking home memories that will accompany us wherever our next adventure lies.

## ACTIVITIES

### SNOWSHOEING/HIKING

There will be ample opportunity to explore inland from the polar shorelines with a wide variety of snowshoeing expeditions built for everyone. There are usually a range of walks offered on each landing, ranging from a casual stroll to a challenging day hike. Snowshoes are provided and our experienced guides will be able to recommend an appropriate hike based on your fitness level.

### SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Our optional ski mountaineering excursions from the ship allow you to explore pristine peaks and majestic mountains in a rugged fjord system. These outings will be led by experienced mountain guides and involve both skiing and mountain climbing in challenging alpine terrain with steep ground and deep snow cover.



▲ Polar bears are frequent visitors to the region. Photo: Marloes van Tiggeoven



▲ Wildlife spotting from the shore. Photo: Jörg Berning

## ZODIAC CRUISES

Two inflatable rubber crafts (Zodiacs) enable landing and wildlife viewing opportunities in otherwise inaccessible areas. There will be excursions on land for three to six hours per day over untracked area. According to conditions (weather, ice, etc.) or the passengers' wishes, the program can sometimes be adjusted. Ample time will be devoted to wildlife, vegetation, geography and history. Our knowledgeable guides assist on these outings, providing detailed information. This is supplemented by lectures on board which cover topics such as wildlife, nature and history.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF EXPEDITIONING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to expeditions. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our members the best possible experience. We employ strong and specialised Expedition Leaders and support staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry.



▲ Capture a seldom-seen landscapes of cascading glaciers. Photo: Philipp Schaudy

We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, with the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up. Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

## EQUIPMENT

Snowshoes are provided but members are expected to provide personal equipment for specific activities such as ski mountaineering. A full clothing and equipment checklist will be sent to all expedition members once their booking is confirmed.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Members will be provided with pre-trip medical advice and a medical questionnaire. They will be asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be treated with full confidentiality.

## FOOD

All meals, including snacks, coffee and tea are provided onboard and most dietary requirements can be catered for if notified in advance.

## THE EXPEDITION FEE

### SHIP BERTH OPTIONS

#### Twin Interior Cabin

	Trip 1	Trip 2
Single berth in a shared cabin	US\$3,900	US\$3,900
Private cabin, sole occupancy	US\$6,630	US\$6,630
Private cabin with 2 passengers	US\$7,800	US\$7,800

#### Twin Porthole

	Trip 1	Trip 2
Single berth in a shared cabin	US\$4,200	US\$4,200
Private cabin, sole occupancy	US\$7,140	US\$7,140
Private cabin with 2 passengers	US\$8,400	US\$8,400

#### Triple Porthole Cabin

	Trip 1	Trip 2
Single berth in a shared cabin	US\$3,350	US\$3,300
Private cabin with 3 passengers	US\$10,050	US\$9,900



▲ Prime viewing from the deck. Photo: Rolf Stange



▲ Minke whale nosing through the ice. Photo: Rinie van Meurs



▲ Cosy communal area aboard the Rembrandt van Rinjin. Photo: Monica Salmang



▲ Experienced guides to share the Arctic with you. Photo: Philipp Schaudy



▲ A team head back to the ship after a day hike in the rugged Arctic landscape. Photo: Philipp Schaudy

**NOTE:** There is a US\$510 supplement for those participating in the ski mountaineering programme.

Pricing may change due to increases in airfares and other costs outside the control of Adventure Consultants.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Voyage aboard the Rembrandt van Rinjin as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac
- Programme of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff
- Free use of snowshoes
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme
- AECO fees and governmental taxes
- Comprehensive pre-departure material

The expedition fee does not include the following:

- Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights
- Transfers to/from the ship
- Pre- and post-trip land arrangements
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes

- Meals ashore
- Ski mountaineering supplement (US\$510)
- Ski mountaineering equipment
- Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance
- Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges
- Customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided)

## PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

**Account Number:** 1000-594771-0000

**Account Type:** US Dollars

**Swift Address:** BKNZNZ22

**NOTE:** All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a 3% card charge.

## DEPOSIT

To confirm place on one of our courses, we require a completed registration form with a deposit of 25% of the expedition fee.

## BALANCE

The balance payment is due 120 days prior to the course start date.

## CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

- Cancellations outside of 120 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 120 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 90 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

## HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join this expedition, please book online booking at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/treks/polar-trekking/north-spitsbergen-hike-ski-and-sail/book-now> and return your completed booking form to us along with your deposit.

## CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd  
PO Box 739  
Wanaka 9343  
New Zealand

**Phone:** +64 3 443 8711

**Email:** [info@adventure.co.nz](mailto:info@adventure.co.nz)

**Web:** [www.adventureconsultants.com](http://www.adventureconsultants.com)



▲ Glaciers carve through a unique landscape. Photo: Philipp Schaudy



▲ Spitsbergen pack ice. Photo: Franco Banfi



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.



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