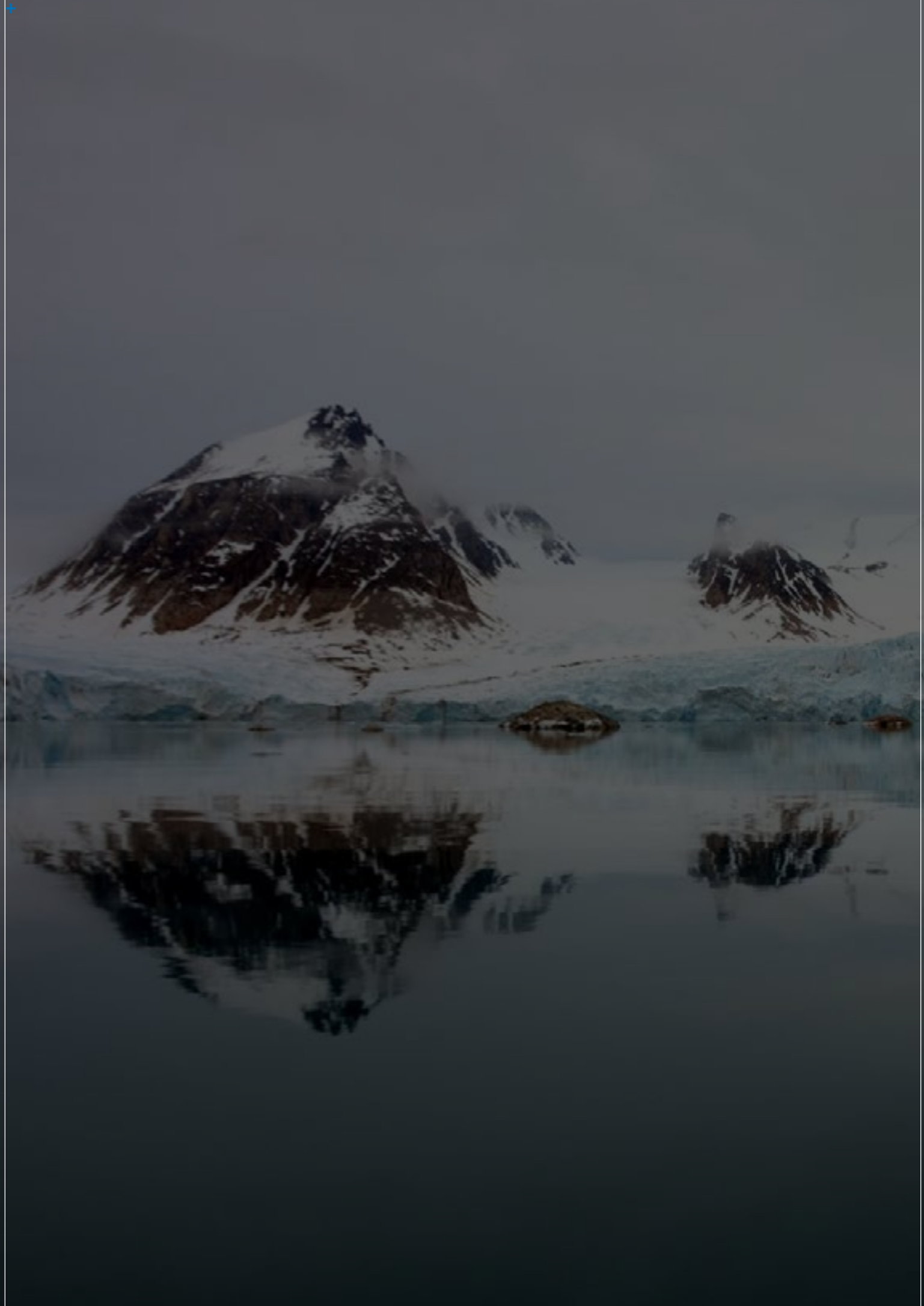




NORTH SPITSBERGEN HIKE, SKI & SAIL



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\$3,810 per person

▲ Explore the untouched beauty of the Svalbard archipelago. *Photo: Folkert Lenz*

Experience the Arctic in a way few others will, exploring pristine peaks and majestic mountains on our North Spitsbergen—Hike, Ski & Sail Expedition. This is a backcountry skiing journey into Norway's northern wilderness, with day excursions from the ship allowing pristine runs in a rugged landscape of fjords and fauna, home to whales, walrus and Arctic foxes.

EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

Starting and ending in the Northern Lights town of Longyearbyen, this is a ship-based backcountry skiing adventure in Norway's Svalbard archipelago. Sailing along the rugged shores of Spitsbergen, we enjoy exhilarating day excursions into this unique Arctic tundra, led by experienced and qualified mountain guides.

We operate this expedition in spring, the perfect time of year to experience the best of Arctic ski mountaineering; the days are getting longer but the climate still clings to the cold, blanketing the mountains with snow and freezing the shores.

The expedition also enjoys options for Zodiac cruises with guided nature and wildlife viewing, plus ample opportunities for hiking and snowshoeing in this stunning and seldom-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.



▲ Fresh tracks exclusively for your team. Photo: Folkert Lenz

PRE-REQUISITE EXPERIENCE

This programme is designed for experienced ski mountaineers who have mastered techniques for both ascent and descent in challenging, snow-covered alpine terrain. Skiers 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.

For those who do not wish to participate in ski mountaineering, there are also options for basic hikes and snowshoeing trips, which usually last 2–6 hours. For this you should just be in reasonably good shape and health. There are no paths and you will be travelling over fairly rugged terrain and taking on some hills.

Please note we do travel in remote areas without access to sophisticated medical facilities, so you should be in good general health.

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, opportunities for ski mountaineering and visiting sites of historic interest.
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 ski excursions at Ymerbukta and Ekmanfjorden.
Day 8	Return to Longyearbyen to disembark, trip ends.

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



▲ Revel in stunning spring days. Photo: Folkert Lenz

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. Although the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. 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 make our first day excursion to Alkhornet, a large seabird cliff and breeding site. Below the cliff is a common place to spot Arctic foxes and reindeer on the snowy shores.

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 pristine backcountry skiing, as well as 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 that is a skier's paradise.

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 to make the most of the Arctic wilderness.

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

SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Our 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.



▲ Ski areas barely accessible except by sea. Photo: Folkert Lenz



▲ The Rembrandt van Rijn, our comfortable base. Photo: Rolf Stange

SNOWSHOEING/HIKING

For non-skiers, there will be the opportunity to explore inland from the polar shorelines with a wide variety of hiking and snowshoeing expeditions to cater 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.

ZODIAC CRUISES

Two inflatable rubber crafts (Zodiacs) enable landing and wildlife viewing opportunities in otherwise inaccessible areas. There will be excursions on land for 3–6 hours per day over untracked area. According to conditions (weather, ice, etc.) or the passengers' wishes, the programme 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.



▲ Polar bears are frequent visitors to the region. Photo: Erwin Vermeulen

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. 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

A full clothing and equipment checklist will be sent to all expedition members once their booking is confirmed. However, members are expected to provide personal equipment for specific activities such as skis with touring bindings, ski boots, crampons, skins, poles, avalanche equipment and climbing equipment. Snowshoes are provided.

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

NOTE: These prices include the Guided Backcountry Skiing option. Please deduct US\$510 per person for non-skiers. Pricing may change due to increases in airfares and other costs outside the control of Adventure Consultants.



▲ Relax in the ship's well-appointed dining area. Photo: Monica Salmang



▲ Untracked powder runs await. Photo: Massimo Candolini



▲ Prime viewing areas on deck. Photo: Amos Nachour



▲ Walruses are frequently sighted from the ship. Photo: Franco Banfi



▲ Nimble Zodiac boats allow us to reach remoter areas for a unique experience. Photo: Massimo Candolini

Twin Interior Cabin

	Trip 1	Trip 2
Single berth in a shared cabin	US\$4,410	US\$4,410
Private cabin, sole occupancy	US\$7,140	US\$7,140
Private cabin with 2 passengers	US\$8,820	US\$8,820

Twin Porthole

	Trip 1	Trip 2
Single berth in a shared cabin	US\$4,710	US\$4,710
Private cabin, sole occupancy	US\$7,650	US\$7,650
Private cabin with 2 passengers	US\$9,420	US\$9,420

Triple Porthole Cabin

	Trip 1	Trip 2
Single berth in a shared cabin	US\$3,860	US\$3,810
Private cabin with 3 passengers	US\$11,580	US\$11,430

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 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/skiing/worldwide-backcountry-skiing/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

Web: www.adventureconsultants.com



▲ Earning your turns with a good climb enroute to an epic run. Photo: Folkert Lenz



▲ Stunning ice formations seen from the ship. Photo: Peter Tadin



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.

