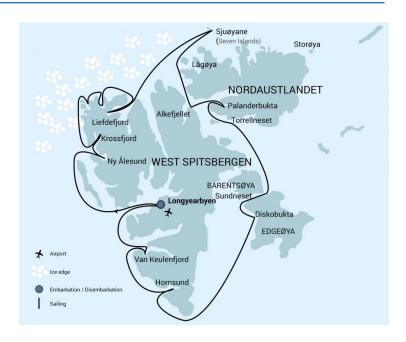


## AROUND SPITSBERGEN - IN THE REALM OF POLAR BEAR & ICE EXPEDITION

Take a cruise around Spitsbergen and explore the icy waters of the North Atlantic. This special expedition offers you the chance to catch site of whales, reindeer, Arctic foxes, walruses, seals, and the star attraction, the polar bear.



#### **ITINERARY**

#### Day 1: Largest town, biggest island

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen, the 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.

## Day 2: Cruising Krossfjorden

Heading north along the west coast, you arrive by morning in Krossfjorden. Here you might board the Zodiacs for a cruise near the towering blue-white





face of the Fourteenth of July Glacier. On the green slopes near the glacier, colorful flowers bloom while flocks of kittiwakes and Brunnich's guillemots nest on the cliffs. You have a good chance of spotting an Arctic fox scouting for fallen chicks, or a bearded seal paddling through the fjord. In the afternoon you sail to Ny Ålesund, the northernmost settlement on Earth. Once a mining village served by the world's most northerly railway - you can still see its tracks - Ny Ålesund is now a research center. Close to the community is a breeding ground for barnacle geese, pink-footed geese, and Arctic terns. And if you're interested in the history of Arctic exploration, visit the anchoring mast used by polar explorers Amundsen and Nobile in their airships, Norge (1926) and Italia (1928).

#### Day 3: The massive Monaco Glacier

Depending on the weather, you could sail into Liefdefjorden and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of the precipitous Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this 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 sailing here early in the season, an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen can be implemented.

#### Day 4 – 5: Stop at the Seven Islands

The northernmost point of your voyage may be north of Nordaustlandet, in the Seven Islands. Here you reach 80° north, just 870 km (540 miles) from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, so the ship may park for several hours among the pack ice before wheeling around west again. When the edge of this sea ice is tens of miles north of the Seven Islands (mostly in August), you can spend a second day in this area. Alternatively (mostly in July) you may turn to Sorgfjord, where you have the chance to find a herd of walruses not far from the graves of 17th-century whalers. A nature walk here can bring you close to families of ptarmigans, and the opposite side of the fjord is also a beautiful area for an excursion.

## Day 6: Highlights of Hinlopen

Today you sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to bearded and ringed seals as well as polar bears. At the entrance there is even the possibility to spot blue whales. As with Liefdefjorden, you can take an alternate west Spitsbergen route if ice prevents entry into Hinlopen. After cruising among the ice floes of

Lomfjordshalvøya in the Zodiacs, you then view the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with their thousands of Brunnich's guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopen Strait, you may attempt a landing where reindeer, pink-footed geese, and walruses are likely sights. Near Torrelneset you can also visit the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third-largest ice cap. Here you may encounter walruses during a coastline hike over the area's raised beaches.

#### Day 7: Barentsøya's many bounties

The plan is to make landings in Freemansundet, though polar bears sometimes make this impossible. Potential stops on Barentsøya include Sundneset (for an old trapper's hut), Kapp Waldburg (for its kittiwake colony), and Rindedalen (for a walk across the tundra). You might also cruise south to Diskobukta, though Kapp Lee is more likely your destination. On Kapp Lee is a walrus haul-out, Pomor ruins, and the chance for hikes along Edgeøya.

## Day 8: Land of the Pointed Mountains

You start the day by cruising the side fjords of the Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen, taking in the spire-like peaks: Hornsundtind rises 1,431 meters (4,695 feet), and Bautaen is a perfect illustration of why early Dutch explorers named this island Spitsbergen, meaning "pointed mountains." There are 14 sizable glaciers in this area as well as opportunities for spotting seals, beluga whales, and polar bears.

#### Day 9: Bell Sund's flora, fauna, and haunting history

Today you find yourself in Bell Sund, one of the largest fjord systems in Svalbard. The ocean currents make this area slightly warmer than other areas in the archipelago, which shows in the relatively lush vegetation. Here there are excellent opportunities to enjoy both history and wildlife. A possibility is Ahlstrandhalvøya, at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden, where piles of beluga skeletons can be found. These remains of 19th-century whale slaughter are a haunting reminder of the consequences of rampant exploitation. Fortunately, belugas were not hunted into extinction, and you have a good chance of coming across a pod. Alternately, while cruising the side fjords of Bellsund, you can explore tundra where reindeer like to feed as well as rock slopes where little auks are breeding.

Day 10: There and back again





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.

#### Please Note:

The chances that we can complete a full Spitsbergen circumnavigation (based on our experiences from 1992 - 2018) are about 30% in the first half of July, 70% in the second half, 90% in the first half of August, and 95% in the second half. In case we cannot complete a full circumnavigation, we may devise a program in northeast or southeast Spitsbergen. All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The onboard expedition leader determines the final itinerary. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.





## YOUR SHIP: HONDIUS

YOUR SHIP: Hondius

VESSEL TYPE: Polar Class Expedition Ship

LENGTH: 107.6 metres

PASSENGER CAPACITY: 170

BUILT/REFURBISHED: 2019

Hondius is the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register standards for ice-strengthened cruise ships. Surpassing the requirements of the Polar Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Hondius represents the most flexible, advanced, innovative touring vessel in the polar regions, thoroughly optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica.

Happier polar passengers, healthier polar environment

Not only will the numerous amenities and on-board entertainments help make your Hondius voyage truly memorable, this ship also gives you the peace of mind that comes with choosing one of the most environmentally friendly vessel on the polar seas. Hondius uses LED lighting, steam heating, bio-degradable paints and lubricants, and state-of-the-art power management systems that keep fuel consumption and CO2 levels minimal. This means that when you sail aboard Hondius, you get to enjoy the exotic landscapes and wildlife as much as possible while impacting them as little as possible.

Hotel comfort, expedition class

Please be aware that a small number of cabins may have a partially obstructed view due to the size of the windows and the design requirements of the ship. For example, some windows may be partly obstructed in the lower half by a gangway. The best view is always on the outer deck or the bridge. Hondius offers high-quality accommodation for 170 passengers in six grand suites with balconies (27 square meters, 291 square feet), eight junior suites (19 to 20 square meters, 205 to 215 square feet), eight superior cabins (20 to 21 square meters, 215 to 226 square feet), 11 twin deluxe cabins, (19 to 21 square meters, 205 to 226 square feet), 14 twin window cabins (12 to 14 square meters, 129 to 151 square feet) as well as 27 twin porthole cabins, two triple porthole cabins, and four quadruple porthole cabins that vary in size from 12 to 18 square meters, or 129 to 194 square feet. One deck consists of a large observation lounge and separate lecture room, which are reserved for a wide variety of interactive workshops, exhibitions, and performances particular to Hondius. Though elegantly designed in stylish mid-century modern decor, this vessel holds true to Oceanwide's distinctive cozy and informal atmosphere.

Swift & safe ship-to-shore operations

It is our philosophy to keep sea time short so that we can focus instead on fast, effective access to shore and near-shore activities. To give you the maximum contact with the nature and wildlife you traveled so far to see, we employ a tough fleet of rigid-hull inflatable Zodiac boats that guarantee swift and safe landing operations for the passengers. Hondius has two separate gangways and a sheltered indoor Zodiac boarding are





that can also be used for special outdoor activities, such as kayaking.

The fast, flexible, friendly heart of the polar regions

Our top priority is taking advantage of every wildlife and terrain opportunity as it occurs. To keep our itineraries flexible itineraries and our response time rapid, Hondius is equipped with advanced stabilizers and two main engines capable of powering the vessel up to 15 knots. But Hondius sacrifices no warmth to achieve its keen polar edge: You will have 70 crew and staff members (including expedition and hotel staff) at your service while on board, ensuring that what little time you do spend on the ship you will spend comfortably entertained.

#### Age and nationality

Passengers on a typical voyage range from in their 30s to their 80s, with the majority usually between 45 65. Our expeditions attract independent travelers from around the globe who are characterized by a strong interest in exploring remote regions. The camaraderie that develops on board is an important part of the Oceanwide experience, and many passenger groups include several nationalities.

#### What to wear

In keeping with the spirit of expedition, dress on board is informal. Bring casual and comfortable clothing for all activities, and keep in mind that much of the scenery can be appreciated from deck—which can be slippery. Bring sturdy shoes with no-slip soles, and make sure your parka is never far away in case one of our crew shouts "Whales!" over the loudspeaker and you have to dash outside in a moment's notice. Opt for layers, as it is comfortably warm aboard the ship though often cold on deck.

How to pay

Refreshments and souvenirs will be charged to your cabin. The

day before departure you can settle your bill with the hotel manager, paying by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or cash (euro, or in some cases dollar). We cannot, however, accept checks. Though the prices and standard currency on board is in the euro, other currencies may be accepted at the discretion of the hotel manager, at prevailing rates.

#### Electric current

The electrical supply aboard ship is 220v, 60Hz. Electrical outlets are standard European with two thick round pins, so some passengers may need a 220v/110v converter.

#### Gratuities

The customary gratuity to the ship's service personnel is made as a blanket contribution at the end of the voyage and is divided among the crew. Tipping is a personal matter, and the amount you wish to give is at your sole discretion. As a generally accepted guideline, we suggest 8 10 euros per passenger per day. It is better for the crew if you give cash.

## Non-smoking policy

We have a non-smoking policy inside all our vessels, though you can smoke in certain designated areas. We ask that you please respect the wishes of non-smokers.

#### Your physical condition

You must be in good overall health and be able to walk several hours per day. The expedition is ship-based and physically not very demanding, but we spend as much time as possible on shore. You are, however, welcome to remain aboard the ship if you prefer. To join most excursions you must be able to get up and down the steep gangway from the ship to the water level to board the Zodiacs. Staff will assist you in and out of the boats, and boarding will become progressively easier with practice, but conditions on shore can be slippery and rocky. Remember, you will be traveling in remote areas without access





to sophisticated medical facilities, so you must not join this expedition if you have a life-threatening condition or need daily medical treatment.

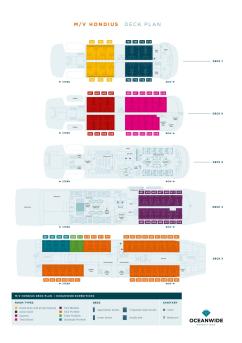


treatment.





# **INSIDE YOUR SHIP**



Grand Suite with Private Balcony



Quadruple Porthole



Triple Porthole



Twin Porthole



Junior Suite



Superior



Twin Deluxe



Twin Window







#### 09-Jul-2025 to 18-Jul-2025

Quadruple Porthole	5650 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7000 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8200 USD pp
Twin Window	8850 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9500 USD pp
Superior	10650 USD pp
Junior Suite	12150 USD pp
<b>Grand Suite with Private Balcony</b>	12300 USD pp
Includes Kvitoya Island Visit	0 pp

#### 10-Jul-2025 to 19-Jul-2025

Quadruple Porthole	5650 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7000 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8200 USD pp
Twin Window	8850 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9500 USD pp
Superior	10650 USD pp

## 12-Jul-2025 to 21-Jul-2025

Quadruple Porthole	5650 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7000 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8200 USD pp
Twin Window	8850 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9500 USD pp
Superior	10650 USD pp

#### 18-Jul-2025 to 27-Jul-2025

5650 USD pp
7000 USD pp
8200 USD pp
8850 USD pp
9500 USD pp
10650 USD pp
12150 USD pp
12300 USD pp
0 pp

#### 21-Jul-2025 to 30-Jul-2025

Quadruple Porthole	5650 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7000 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8200 USD pp
Twin Window	8850 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9500 USD pp
Superior	10650 USD pp





## 26-Jul-2025 to 04-Aug-2025

Quadruple Porthole	5650 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7000 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8200 USD pp
Twin Window	8850 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9500 USD pp
Superior	10650 USD pp

## 30-Jul-2025 to 08-Aug-2025

Quadruple Porthole	5650 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7000 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8200 USD pp
Twin Window	8850 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9500 USD pp
Superior	10650 USD pp

#### 27-Jun-2026 to 06-Jul-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp
Junior Suite	12650 USD pp
<b>Grand Suite with Private Balcony</b>	13700 USD pp

03-Jul-2026 to 12-Jul-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp

#### 06-Jul-2026 to 15-Jul-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp
Junior Suite	12650 USD pp
<b>Grand Suite with Private Balcony</b>	13700 USD pp





#### 07-Jul-2026 to 16-Jul-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp

#### 12-Jul-2026 to 21-Jul-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp

#### 15-Jul-2026 to 24-Jul-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp
Junior Suite	12650 USD pp
Grand Suite with Private Balcony	13700 USD pp

16-Jul-2026 to 25-Jul-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp

#### 21-Jul-2026 to 30-Jul-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp





## 24-Jul-2026 to 02-Aug-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp
Junior Suite	12650 USD pp
<b>Grand Suite with Private Balcony</b>	13700 USD pp

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp

## 25-Jul-2026 to 03-Aug-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp

## 30-Jul-2026 to 08-Aug-2026

Quadruple Porthole	5900 USD pp
Triple Porthole	7250 USD pp
Twin Porthole	8500 USD pp
Twin Window	9200 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	9900 USD pp
Superior	11100 USD pp

08-Aug-2026 to 17-Aug-2026

