

Wild Earth Travel

Small Ships, Big Adventures

wildearth-travel.com

info@wildearth-travel.com

SCANDINAVIA AND THE BALTIC SEA: COASTS, ISLANDS, AND ARCHIPELAGOS EXPEDITION

The islands and archipelagos of Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea delight travelers with serene nature, idyllic villages, vibrant cities, and maritime history. Discover some of the highlights as you sail through this picturesque region once traversed by Viking ships and Hanseatic League merchants. Stroll into the past in places like Gamla Stan, Stockholm's colorful Old Town, UNESCO-designated Visby, or Mariehamn, "the town of a thousand Linden trees." Kayak and Zodiac past remote lighthouses in the Åland Islands and venture to Stora Karlsö, a bird-filled nature reserve which rests upon ancient coral reefs.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Stockholm, Sweden / Embark Ship

Arrive in Stockholm and transfer to the city center. As the largest city in Scandinavia, the city offers a dynamic blend of culture, architecture, and history. Spend the day at your own pace taking in this world capital throughout the ages before embarking the ship this afternoon.

Meals Included: Dinner

Day 2 Stockholm Archipelago

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Day 6 Stora Karlsö

This morning, wake up next to Gamla Stan, Stockholm's oldest district as you take advantage of the city's highlights and walk among the cobblestone streets, along the surrounding canals, or through the numerous public parks. Visit the Vasa Museum which houses the world's only preserved 17th century ship and hear from experts about its sister ship which was recently discovered in the Baltic Sea. This afternoon, enjoy one of the most iconic Scandinavian sailings as you navigate the Stockholm archipelago or "skargarden," watching local ferries crisscross the waterways and photographing the quaint cottages that line the shores.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 3-4 Finnish Archipelago

The Finnish Archipelago, comprising more than 6,700 islands, is known for its slower pace, strong ties to the sea, and independent nature. Discover the Åland Islands, a fascinating autonomous region, as you explore from its capital of Mariehamn to the outer island of Uto. Visit remote lighthouses perched on red granite islands; navigate through coves and islands on Zodiacs and kayaks; explore the decks of the Pommern, a four-masted barque and one of the last of the Flying P-Liners; and walk Mariehamn's city streets to see why it's referred to as "the town of a thousand Linden trees."

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Visby, Gotland

A former Viking site on the island of Gotland, the UNESCO-designated city of Visby is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Scandinavia. Its history as a part of the Hanseatic League can still be witnessed in its two-mile-long city wall, cobblestone streets, and stone houses. Outside its walls, Gotland lures travelers with its rich history, striking nature, and a growing reputation for local crafts and goods. Spend the day exploring the island or follow the local lifestyle of slowing down and enjoying the rhythm of the Baltic Sea.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

The second oldest nature reserve in the world after Yellowstone National Park, Stora Karlsö is a nature lovers' paradise. Composed of fossilized coral reefs formed over 400 million years ago, the scenery is one of the main draws of this "rock" in the middle of the Baltic Sea. It's home to the biggest bird cliffs in the Baltic, which teem with colonies of breeding guillemots and razorbills, and it's carpeted with an array of dazzling flowers, depending on the season. You'll be guided through this rich diversity by your naturalists as well as by the Reserve Rangers.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Bornholm, Denmark

Arrive at the island of Bornholm, a Danish island located in the Baltic Sea, between Sweden and Germany. Known for its local makers and crafters, Bornholm offers a relaxing atmosphere. Rønne, the capital of the island, is a market town dating back to 1327 and that creative mindset continues to grow in modern times. Spend the day getting to know the history, artists, and landscape of this Danish gem.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Copenhagen / Disembark Ship

Disembark in Copenhagen and transfer to the airport for flights home.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDURANCE

YOUR SHIP:	National Geographic Endurance
VESSEL TYPE:	Expedition Ship
LENGTH:	124 m
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	126
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	2020

A next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation.

National Geographic Endurance is a next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation. A fully stabilized, highly strengthened, ice-class Polar Code PC5 (Category A) vessel, it is designed to navigate polar passages year-round, and safely explore uncharted waters, while providing exceptional comfort. Its patented X-BOW® is key to its design; its powerful wave-slicing action provides an extremely smooth ride in even adverse conditions, and even reduces spray on deck, for superior observation. She carries a full suite of expedition tools and offers a variety of experience-enhancing amenities.

The luxury of comfort on expedition

National Geographic Endurance comfortably accommodates 126 guests in 69 outside-facing cabins. Cabins are efficiently designed, with sizes range from the 140-square-foot solo cabin to the 430-square-foot category 7 suite. Fifty-three of the 69 cabins, including all 12 of the solo cabins, will feature small balconies with floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that bring in the spectacular views and ample natural light.

Comfort & convenience in every room

Every cabin has two portholes, a large window or balcony, and temperature controls. Bathrooms are modern and stocked with botanically inspired hair products, soap, and shower gel, plus a hairdryer. Cabins are equipped with expedition command centers with tablets and USB/mobile device docking, TVs, Wi-Fi connections, and hair dryers.

_Dining: _Food served aboard is fresh, local, and delicious, and sourced from suppliers who share our values of sustainable use whenever possible. Meals aboard are almost always served in the dining room, located aft of the lounge deck. When weather conditions allow, lighter fare may be served on the observation deck. There is no assigned seating and our dining room accommodates the entire expedition community in a single seating. During meals your expedition leader, naturalists, and any guest speakers aboard will join you.

Public Areas: Two restaurants, a Chef's Table for small group dining, Observation Lounge with bar, gym, Wellness area, infinity-style outdoor hot tubs, library, main lounge with full service bar, 24-hour beverage, state-of-the-art facilities for films, slideshows and presentations, and a photo workshop area; plus, an expedition base with lockers for expedition gear, and an "open bridge" for access to our captain, officers and the art of navigation.

Meals: Two restaurants, featuring local, sustainable choices and unassigned seating for flexible, inclusive dining; plus a Chef's table for intimate, small group dining. Main restaurant has 270° views, and the Observation deck restaurant features lighter, made-to-order fare.

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Cabins: All cabins face outside with large windows, private facilities and climate controls. 53 cabins have balconies. Cabins are equipped with expedition command centers with tablets and USB/mobile device docking, TVs, Wi-Fi connections, and hair dryers.

Expedition Tools: Zodiac landing craft, kayaks, snowshoes, cross-country skis, undersea specialist operating a remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and underwater video camera for unique access to polar marine world, hydrophone, aerial remote-controlled camera and video microscope.

Special Features: A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and video chronicler, an internet cafe and laundry.

Wellness: The vessel is staffed by our wellness specialists and features a glass-enclosed yoga studio, gym, treatment rooms and spa relax area, and high- and low-heat saunas with ocean views.

Expedition Landing Craft: Key to our operation is our fleet of expedition landing craft, which we use to land in places that would otherwise be inaccessible. With 8 of these boats and two loading stations used every time we disembark, we're able to transfer guests off the ship quickly, so you can be out on adventures, not idly waiting. The expedition landing craft we use are 19 feet long, powered by four-stroke outboard engines, and are capable of comfortably carrying 10-12 people. They are widely recognized as the safest and most versatile small boats afloat.

Remotely Operated Vehicle: Capable of reaching 1,000 feet, far beyond the range of any Scuba diver, the ROV allows you to literally view parts of the undersea that are as unexplored as the

moon. Chances are you, like many of our guests, will be struck by how surprisingly colorful undersea life is in these unlikely places. And this glimpse may fundamentally change how you view the ocean.

Kayaks: National Geographic Endurance will be equipped with a fleet of kayaks large enough to ensure everyone who wants to can paddle at every opportunity.

Consequently, prior kayaking experience isn't necessary--many of our guests have their first kayaking experience in extraordinary locations. Our custom-designed floating platform lets us deploy kayaks from the ship, or any location we want--including far from shore. Kayakers are usually free to explore where they want within boundaries set by the undersea specialist and officer of the watch.

Underwater camera: Our undersea specialist will dive often during your expedition, even in Alaska, with cold-water gear, to shoot high-definition, Cousteau-like footage of the deep. Colorful nudibranchs, swimming, plant-like crinoids, and mysterious fish with antifreeze blood that thrive in the frigid sea will give you an entirely new appreciation of the marine environment.

Video microscope: Naturalists will use the video microscope to help explain all elements of the environment, including tiny organisms that are the building block of the marine ecosystem. Spellbinding live views of krill at 80x magnification fills the high-definition screens in the lounge with vivid detail, and fills every onlooker with a sense of wonder at the importance of otherwise unobservable creatures.

Hydrophone: This underwater microphone is deployed to listen to the vocalizations of marine mammals. Real time transmissions of their eerie, haunting sounds can be broadcast through the ship or recorded for later playback. Few experiences

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in nature are as captivating as watching humpback whales feed close to the ship as their vocalizations play through the ship's PA system.

Electronic charts: An electronic chart showing the ship's location, course, and speed is almost always on display in the lounge.

Open bridge: You'll find our captains are engaged, knowledgeable members of your expedition who are eager to share their passion with you. Venture's open bridge features comfortable spaces to sit, enjoy the view, drink your morning coffee, or simply chat with the officers.

Snorkeling gear & wetsuits: On warm weather itineraries where there will be snorkeling, you'll select a mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit that remain yours for the duration of the expedition. There's no need to pack and tote your own gear, although guests who prefer to are welcome to bring their own.



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PRICING



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