

# Kingdom of the Polar Bear

*Spitsbergen is the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago, roughly the size of Ireland, and within a few hundred miles of the North Pole. This pristine environment is home to the reindeer, arctic fox and a multitude of birds, whilst the drift-ice is the habitat of seals, walrus and the occasional polar bear. Whales are frequently seen along the coast, and the short Arctic summer produces beautiful wild flowers, beneath a sun that never sets.*

There are no roads on Spitsbergen beyond the few isolated settlements, so a coastal cruise is the best way to experience this vast icy wilderness.

## Kingdom of the Polar Bear Cruise

A seven-night expedition cruise, taking you deep into polar bear country. In one amazing week you will experience the harsh environment of the Arctic Ocean, and its quite remarkable bird-life. You will see seals, and in all probability whales, walrus, and the 'king' himself – the polar bear in his natural habitat. Ice conditions will dictate the exact route, but the aim is to explore the northern and eastern regions – hopefully circumnavigating the whole island. Enjoyable lectures by knowledgeable guides and guest lecturers will enhance your enjoyment of this amazing Arctic Experience.

### m.v. 'Polar Star'

Built in Finland in 1969 m.v. 'Polar Star' is a purpose-built ice-breaker that has undergone a total refit to become a safe and comfortable expedition ship. Facilities now include a dining hall, a large panoramic lounge, bar, library and 48 outside cabins. The majority of these have twin beds, large windows and private facilities. 3-bedded cabins are also available – prices on request. The ship offers plenty of deck space for observing the nature and wildlife, with a fleet of inflatable dinghies available for shore excursions.

### Spitsbergen Hotel, Longyearbyen

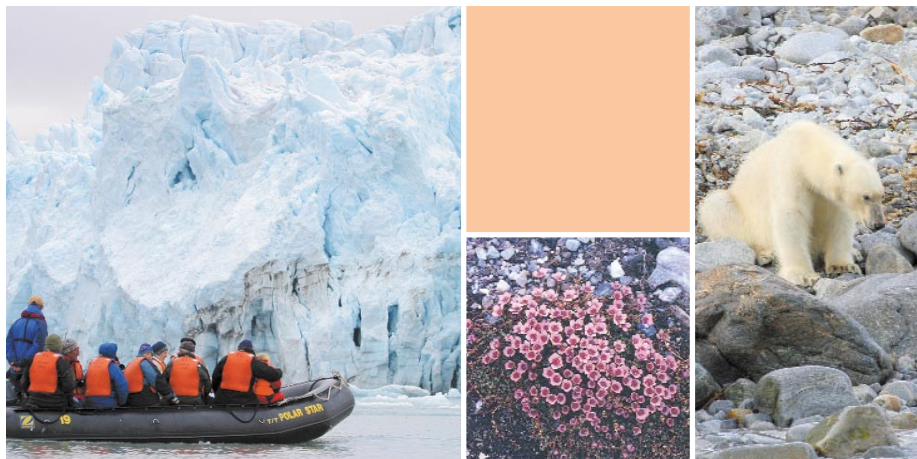
A long-established hotel offering modern facilities and a cosy atmosphere. Amenities include an excellent restaurant and comfortable lounges where complimentary afternoon tea and waffles are served.

### Svalbard Explorer Cruise

An alternative 7-night cruise is available during June on m.s. Fram. Details on request.

### Spitsbergen Breaks

Short breaks are possible in Longyearbyen at any time of year. A daily programme of activities is available including boat-trips, hiking, kayaking, skiing, snowmobiling and husky safaris, depending on the season. Details on request.



Amazing views from the dinghy, Arctic flora and polar bear.

## KINGDOM OF THE POLAR BEAR CRUISE

8 NIGHTS

Ref. PB9

### DEPARTURE DATES:

Thursdays 9 June – 18 August.

### ITINERARY

**THURSDAY.** Depart Heathrow 17.30 to Oslo, with onward direct flight to Longyearbyen, arriving 00.50. Transfer to hotel.

### 1 night Bed and Breakfast –

**Spitsbergen Hotel, Longyearbyen.**

**FRIDAY.** Information meeting after breakfast, then time at leisure before lunch. Sight-seeing in Longyearbyen before joining ship at 15.30. On the way out of the Isfjord a stop is made at Barentsburg.

### 7 nights Full-Board – m.v. Polar Star.

**SATURDAY.** A visit to Ny Ålesund, then north to Magdalenefjord and Smeerenburgfjord.

**SUNDAY.** Around the north-west corner of Spitsbergen crossing the 80° parallel before exploring fjords, glaciers and icebergs. From here the itinerary is based on sea and ice conditions, with regular landings and excursions using Zodiacs to explore remote locations, and seek out Arctic wildlife, including polar bears. If conditions allow, the ship will circumnavigate Spitsbergen, visit Nordaustlandet, Wahlenburgfjord, Murchisonfjord and possibly sail as far as Edgeøya and Sørkapp (Southern Cape).

**THURSDAY.** Return to Isfjord, with a farewell dinner on board.

**FRIDAY.** Early morning arrival back in Longyearbyen. Optional transfer to airport for the 04.40 flight to Oslo, and onward flight.

We would recommend, however, that you stay on board until 08.00 when, you will be transferred to the Spitsbergen Hotel, where you can have breakfast (about £12) and leave your luggage. You can then enjoy a last morning in Longyearbyen before taking the airport bus (about £4) to the airport for the 14.55 flight to Oslo, and onward flight, arriving Heathrow at 21.35.

### PRICES in £s per person departing from: HEATHROW

Cabin Ref	Cabin description	Twin	Single
O	Twin outside/restricted view	4200	6900
R	Twin-bedded outside	4300	7075
E	Superior outside-double & sofa	4950	8200
T	Junior Suite	5550	9250
W	Suite	6300	-

Supplement: 14 July – 18 August departures – £200pp in twin (single supp on request)

### Price includes:

Bed, Breakfast and Lunch in Longyearbyen. Seven night Cruise with full board and all shore excursions. Return scheduled SAS flights as indicated. Ship/airport transfers in Longyearbyen. Departure taxes.

**FLIGHT SUPPLEMENTS** from other airports on request as extra nights may be needed.



m.v. Polar Star and walrus