



WEST SVALBARD & POLAR ICE EDGE

JUNE 9 – 18, 2024

10 DAYS

EMBARKATION: LONGYEARBYEN (SVALBARD) / DISEMBARKATION: LONGYEARBYEN (SVALBARD)

M/V SEA SPIRIT

ACTIVITIES:

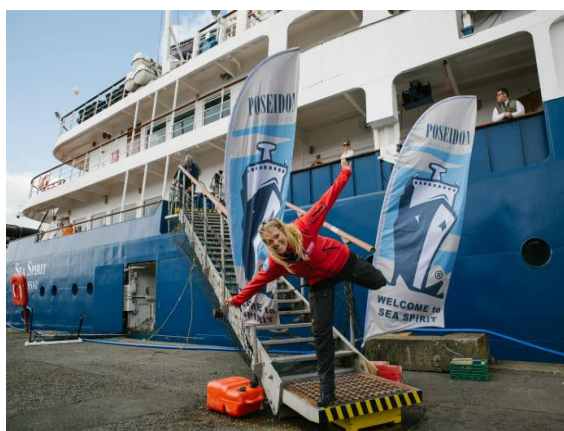




Day 1: June 9 - Arrival to Oslo (hotel night)

Welcome to Oslo, which in 2019 was awarded the prestigious title “Green Capital of Europe”. We’ve arranged a comfortable stay for you at an **Oslo Airport hotel** so that you’re conveniently close for your flight to Longyearbyen on Day 2.

If you’re adventurous and have the time, take the handy airport train into central Oslo – it’s a 20-minute ride and trains depart and arrive frequently during the day. Near Oslo Central Station are shops, cafes, the Botanical Garden, cultural attractions and the attractive waterfront area.



Day 2: June 10 - Welcome Aboard!

Today you have a flight to Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Svalbard and starting point of our Arctic expedition! At the Longyearbyen airport, you will be greeted by our staff and transferred to the pier where we will warmly welcome you aboard the deluxe expedition vessel M/V Sea Spirit. Get settled in your spacious suite and explore the ship that will be your comfortable home during the extraordinary adventure to come. Once underway, a full schedule of events kicks off with informative briefings and introductions from your expedition staff. After the first of many delicious dinners on board, step out onto the open decks to admire the gorgeous scenery in endless evening light as we pass through the wildlife-rich waters of Isfjorden, one of the largest fjords in Svalbard.



Day 3-9: June 11 – 17 - West Svalbard and Polar Ice Edge

The itinerary for this voyage focuses on the spectacular fjords, coasts and islands of western Spitsbergen, the main island of the Svalbard archipelago. This area contains Svalbard's most impressive scenery and some of the Arctic's best wildlife viewing opportunities. Our exact schedule and route will be shaped by the weather and ice conditions we encounter. Polar bears and other iconic Arctic animals can be spotted at anytime, anywhere in our area of exploration.

One of the pristine natural areas on this itinerary is South Spitsbergen National Park, a vast region of varied landscapes including polar deserts and impassible mountain ranges. The centerpiece of this park is Hornsund, a picture-perfect fjord where countless mighty glaciers cascade from soaring mountaintops into icy inlets. At this time of year, we are sure to encounter fast ice—that is, sea ice that is fastened to the shore. This situation offers an excellent chance of observing polar bears on the hunt for ringed seals. The park also includes the southern shores of Bellsund, a picturesque bay where we find the remains of historical whaling operations, including wooden boats, cabins and thousands of whale bones—a scene from the distant past, literally frozen in time. This area also offers great hiking opportunities through landscapes rich with Arctic flora and birdlife, as well as fascinating geology.

Also on our route is Northwest Spitsbergen National Park, the crown jewel of Svalbard's scenic wonders. Here we find deep fjords flanked by serrated mountain peaks and immense tidewater glaciers calving icebergs into turquoise waters. The whole area is alive with migratory Arctic seabirds. On this voyage, we are just in time to witness the return of millions of murres, guillemots and little auks to the small islands, mountainsides and sea cliffs where they breed within the park. This is also a great area to encounter marine mammals, including various kinds of whales and Arctic seals. Set among this incredible scenery and wildlife activity, we also find evidence of Svalbard's earliest sealers and whalers.

Our area of exploration also includes gorgeous Forlandet National Park. Here we find Prins Karls Forland, one of the best places in Svalbard to observe herds of walrus hauled out on land. Also along the route is North Isforden National Park, where we have the chance to observe endemic Svalbard reindeer grazing and Arctic fox romping in lush tundra meadows.

Human habitation along our route can be found at Ny Ålesund, a former mining town and airship base that is now home to an international community of Arctic researchers. This is one of the world's most northerly settlements where we find a museum, gift shop and post office.

In addition to exploring the terrestrial environment and inshore waterways of western Spitsbergen, we make a special effort to reach the edge of the polar pack ice. At this dynamic boundary between solid sea ice and open ocean, we have an unparalleled opportunity to witness the dramatic interplay between polar bears and seals. We will take the ship as close as safely possible to the jumbled and constantly shifting ice floes in the hope of observing polar bears hunting in their preferred habitat. At this time of year, the ice edge is not far from mainland Spitsbergen and our sailing time in open seas will be relatively short.

The West Svalbard and Polar Ice Edge route offers a stunning variety of Arctic landscapes and animals with minimal sailing time between excursions. Every day offers something new and exciting. We will not miss a single opportunity to encounter amazing Arctic wildlife, to witness incredible polar scenery, and to walk in the footsteps of historic expeditions that came before.



Day 10: - June 18 - Disembarkation in Longyearbyen, Svalbard

After filling up with one last buffet breakfast on board, we bid you farewell in Longyearbyen and provide transfers. By this time, you may already be making plans for your next amazing trip with us into the polar worlds!

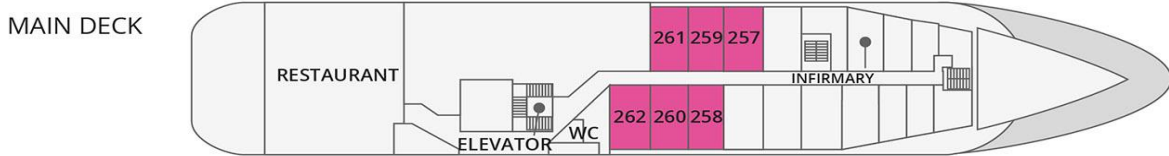
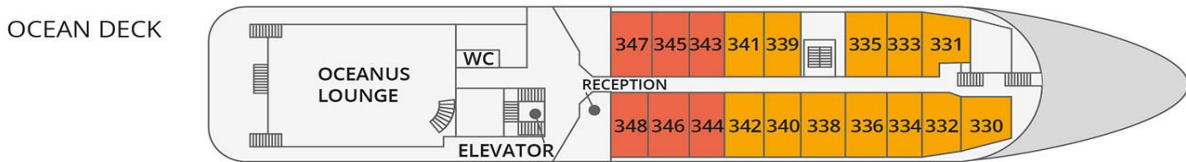
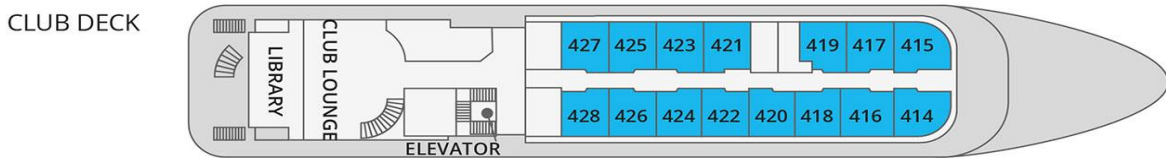
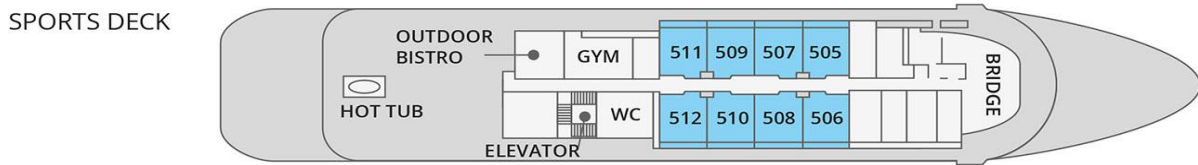
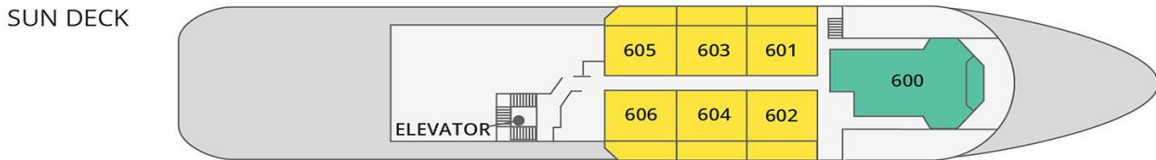
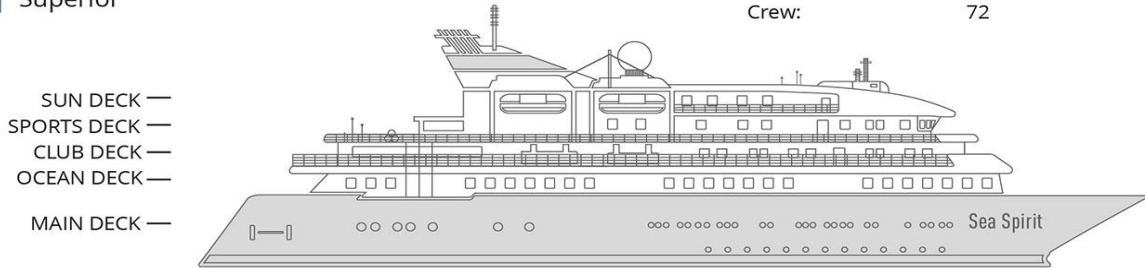


M/V SEA SPIRIT

DECK PLAN M/V SEA SPIRIT

- Owner's
- Premium
- Deluxe
- Superior
- Classic
- Triple
- Main Deck

Length:	90.6 meters (297 ft.)
Beam:	15.3 meters (50 ft.)
Speed:	15 knots
Passengers:	114
Crew:	72



Triple Suite



Averaging 21 square metres/226 square feet, these staterooms have two twins and a comfortable sofa bed. The twins also convert to a King, if desired. Located on Oceanus Deck, these suites have a picture window, two wardrobes and en suite facilities. Amenities include: in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control, and hair dryer.

Classic Suite



Averaging 21 square metres/226 square feet, these cabins are located on the Oceanus Deck. They feature a picture window, two wardrobes and a choice of either two twin beds or a King Size bed. Amenities include: en suite facilities, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control and hair dryer.

Main Deck Suite



Averaging 23 square metres/248 square feet, Main Deck cabins are equipped with either two twins or a King Size bed. They are located on the Main Deck with a minimum of two portholes for exterior views. Amenities include: en suite facilities, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD individual temperature control and hair dryer.

Superior Suite



Superior Suites are located on the Club Deck. Averaging 20 square metres/ 215 square feet, these cabins feature two twin beds or a King Size bed. The picture window overlooks an outside walkway on the Club Deck. Amenities include: en suite facilities, walk-in closet or wardrobe, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control, hair dryer.

Deluxe Suite



The Deluxe Suites with balconies are located on the Sports Deck. Averaging 24 square metres/ 258 square feet means plenty of room. Choose from either two twin beds or a King Size bed. A sliding glass door leads to a private balcony. These suites feature a walk-in closet or wardrobe. Amenities include en suite facilities, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control, and a hair dryer.

Premium Suite



The Premium Suites are located on the Sun Deck. Averaging a generous 30 square metres/ 323 square feet, with two twin beds or a King Size bed. Access the private balcony by a sliding glass door. Amenities include: en suite facilities, lounge area, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control, and hair dryer.

Owners Suite



Super-spacious (63 square metres/ 678 square feet) elegant suite on the Sun Deck. Designed for entertaining, the Owner's Suite has a separate living room with game and meeting area. A BOSE stereo system provides background music, or watch videos on the HD plasma TV. Sliding glass doors lead to a private deck. Refresh in the jetted bathtub in en suite facilities. Slumber in the King Size bed. A sofa bed can accommodate a third person.



Sea Kayak Club

Kayaking fee \$655

Sea Kayak Club is typically offered on voyages that include High Arctic destinations such as Greenland, Svalbard (Spitsbergen), Franz Josef Land, or a combination of these thrilling places. Experience calving glaciers in Svalbard, cathedral-like icebergs in Greenland, or labyrinthine expanses of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean, all from our sturdy and stealthy sea kayaks. Join us for an unscripted kayaking adventure as we explore rugged coastlines and remote waters that very few people have ever paddled.



Photography

Free option

The Polar Regions are perhaps the most photogenic on earth, with countless beautiful scenes presenting themselves every day. Endless expanses of ice, beaches crowded with seals or penguins, sunsets over unbroken horizons, starlit skies, and even the majestic northern lights – they all present fantastic photographic opportunities – and in order to make sure that you come home with some spectacular images we offer you the chance to learn and practice your photography alongside an experienced professional.

Our expert Photographer will be on hand to answer your questions and give advice, both in the form of on-board lectures and workshops on shore. Explore the key elements of photography in a fun and relaxed setting, with plenty of opportunities for questions and feedback. Learn how to see light in a new way and experiment with the techniques of composition and framing.

University of Michigan Special Rates

Triple Suite	Main Deck	Classic Suite	Superior Suite	Deluxe Suite	Premium Suite	Owners Suite
US\$ 7 895	US\$ 10 895	US\$ 11 595	US\$ 11 795	US\$ 13 295	US\$ 14 595	US\$ 18 695
US\$ 6 711	US\$ 9 261	US\$ 9 856	US\$ 9 436	US\$ 10 636	US\$ 11 676	US\$ 14 956

The University of Michigan Alumni will enjoy our Early Bird discount (15% off Triple, Main Deck, and Classic Suites; 20% off Superior, Deluxe, Premium, and Owner's Suites) up to the time of travel.

Cruise rates are quoted per person and based on passengers sharing a cabin. Single supplement: x2 for Deluxe, Premium and Owner's Suite.

Rates Include

Round trip Oslo - Longyearbyen - Oslo air transportation;

1 pre-voyage night on Day 1 in a hotel in Oslo;

Group transfer to the ship for embarkation on Day 2;

Group transfer upon disembarkation;

Shipboard accommodation;

All meals on board throughout the voyage;

Tea and coffee station 24 hours daily;

All scheduled landings/excursions (subject to weather and ice conditions);

Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader and Expedition Team;

Branded Poseidon Expeditions parka;

Rubber boots for shore landings for the time of the cruise;

Welcome and Farewell cocktails;

All port fees;

Pre-departure materials;

Digital Voyage Log;

Wi-Fi on board.

Rates Do Not Include

Airfare;

Visa and passport fees (if applicable);

Luggage and trip cancellation insurance;

Fuel surcharge may be applied for all bookings;

Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages other than those for special events and celebrations;

Personal expenses such as laundry and telecommunication charges;

Mandatory Emergency Evacuation Insurance to a minimum benefit of US\$ 200,000 per person;

Kayaking;

The cost of any applicable medical tests (such as COVID-19) or vaccinations required either by a national government or Poseidon Expeditions before, during or after the cruise;

Staff gratuities.

Itinerary, landings and all other activities during the cruise depend strongly on ice and weather conditions and are subject to the decisions of the Expedition Leader and the Captain of the vessel. Encounters with any mentioned wildlife cannot be guaranteed.

How to Make A Reservation

For questions, cabin availability and reservations please contact Poseidon Expeditions at (347)-801-2610 or salesUSA@poseidonexpeditions.com and our reservation specialists, can assist you. You may also contact Jennifer Kunath, Director of Sales, if any questions, at jkunath@poseidonexpeditions.com. After receipt of your deposit you will be sent pre-departure information by email.

For questions or additional information about the University of Michigan Alumni Association, please contact the Michigan Alumni Travel team, at 855.764.0064 or alumnitavel@umich.edu.

Air Arrangements

Airfare is not included in the cruise rate. However, we can assist you with your airline reservations. Please contact us at salesUSA@poseidonexpeditions.com.

Insurance for your Polar Cruise Expedition

Traveling to the Arctic is a great adventure, but sometimes unexpected illness or injury during the trip itself may change your plans and require medical evacuation. **Please note that Poseidon Expeditions requires Emergency medical and evacuation/repatriation insurance coverage for all aboard the *Sea Spirit*, as per our [Terms and Conditions](#).** You will receive information on travel insurance from the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, shortly after your reservation has been made.

Reservations and Payments

A non-refundable deposit of 20% of the appropriate cabin rate is required to confirm the reservation of the Expedition Cruise. The final payment (80%) is due 90 days prior to the departure. Payments can be made via bank transfer (preferred method of payment) or by credit card. All payments are to be made in the agreed currency indicated in the invoice. Poseidon affiliate Poseidon Expeditions USA, LLC of Providence accepts credit cards and checks for payments.

Terms and Conditions

https://poseidonexpeditions.com/upload/files/terms/PE_T&C.pdf

Itinerary, landings and all other activities during the cruise depend strongly on weather conditions and are subject to the decisions of the Expedition Leader and the Captain of the vessel. Encounters with any mentioned wildlife cannot be guaranteed.

Associations Disclaimer: The Association is not the tour operator. The Association is not responsible for any changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or car-rental reservations, delays, losses injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The Association acts only as an independent contractor and not as a principal, agent, or joint venture for the airline, hotel, car rental company, cruise line, and/or tour operator named in the brochure. As a result, the Association is not responsible for their acts or omissions. The Association acts only as agent for the participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel, or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents, or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the Association shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the

participant due to sickness, weather, sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond its control. The Association shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to cancel the tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment may be refunded without further obligation on its part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's health, actions, or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. Applicants for participation on this tour accept.

Travel with the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan is a member benefit. All participants must be members of the Alumni Association. Please contact the Alumni Relations team at (800) 847-4764 or alumni@umich.edu for more information.

