



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



LAND OF THE ICE BEARS

AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF ARCTIC SVALBARD



MAY 23-JUNE 2, 2018 | ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

Travel to the Arctic with us for a genuinely exploratory experience. Thanks to *National Geographic Explorer's* tools and expert staff, you can actively engage. Savor the thrill of crunching through the pack ice. Kayak for eye-level encounters. Zodiac where few have gone before. Search for walrus, whales, and polar bears. Discover the undersea. Shoot with an onboard National Geographic photographer and more.



HOWDY, AGS!

The Arctic is all about radical simplicity—elemental rock sculpted by millennial forces, the carpeting tundra, the impassive massiveness of tidewater glaciers, and lordly bears stalking the lace-like vastness of the pack ice. Timeless and essential, wild and beautiful, the Arctic is mythic—providing the thrill of pure discovery in pure wildness.

Our voyage aboard the 148-guest *National Geographic Explorer* delivers the best of the Arctic—featuring the ‘capital’ of Arctic nature: Svalbard. Svalbard is one of the few places on Earth where the polar bear can be reliably found in its natural environment. And spotting a polar bear in the wild, a life-list must for many, is a chance to experience the Arctic on a visceral level.

With years of Arctic exploration, *Explorer*’s ace spotters have honed their skills; they know how to find *isbjorn*, the ice bear. And the captain knows how to approach the animals—respectfully—for optimal sightings. They have learned their behavior, understand how they tend to move in the pack ice, and consequently, know where to find them—to deliver the thrill for you.

Clearly, finding and observing polar bears in their wild habitat is the pinnacle experience of exploring the Arctic, but this voyage offers so many other utterly fascinating things—a waterfall gushing from a great glacier terminus, throngs of seabirds, blankets of wildflowers, iconic reindeer and walrus, and the chance of spotting several species of whales.

You travel there in safety and comfort aboard an ice-strengthened expedition ship along with the best ice team in the world. With a range of innovative tools for exploring, including a fleet of Zodiacs and kayaks, *Explorer* is the perfect mobile platform for discovering all the fascinating aspects of the Arctic. An onboard team of expert naturalists, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer, and a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor all help you explore and capture every facet of your journey.

Join us and experience the joy of observing a beautiful animal secure in its native habitat, and of the elegiac ache at the prospect of what looms, given melting ice. **To reserve your place, please call us at 979-845-7514 or 800-633-7514, or return the enclosed reservation form.**

Gig ’em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
Director, Travel Programs
The Association of Former Students

P.S. On this voyage, your bar tab and tips to the crew will be included.

Cover photo: Polar bear mother and cubs on pack ice.

Left: National Geographic Explorer noses up to give guests a view of ice cap and waterfall.

Ship’s Registry: Bahamas



THE ARCTIC: NATURE IN ITS PUREST FORM

A mere 600 miles from the North Pole, located in Norway's High Arctic, Svalbard is true wilderness, a pristine blue-white land of towering glaciers, lapidary fjords, teeming bird colonies, huddles of walrus hauled out on pebbled beaches, and reindeer grazing on tundra ablaze with wildflowers.

But few experiences are as profound as locating and observing bears in Svalbard. To be on *National Geographic Explorer* in the Arctic, maneuvered with near-surgical precision by a skilled ice master as it draws close to a bear hunting on the pack ice or a mother bear instructing her young cubs, is simply enthralling. To be able to hover there, observing these creatures that remain completely undisturbed by the people gazing raptly from the deck rail or by their whirring camera motor drives, is one of life's most satisfying experiences.



Clockwise: Polar bear on the pack ice; Atlantic walrus hauled out on ice floe; glacier terminus, Svalbard; bearded seal; a reindeer lopes along the tundra.





THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO EXPLORE THE ARCTIC



Guests are welcomed on the bridge.

National Geographic Explorer is the only expedition ship designed and equipped by individuals with a collective 175 years of expedition experience. Through the ship's agility and the skill of her captain, you can experience unprecedented encounters with beauty, wildness, and

serenity in the Arctic. *Explorer* is the best-equipped expedition ship in the world, featuring exceptional accoutrements that make her an excellent base for exploration. A fleet of Mk-5 Zodiacs, the finest expedition landing craft available, and 36 stable sea kayaks allow for up-close discovery, while state-of-the-art undersea video technology offers a unique opportunity to see beneath the ocean's surface while staying dry.

THE PRIVILEGE OF COMFORT & COMMUNITY

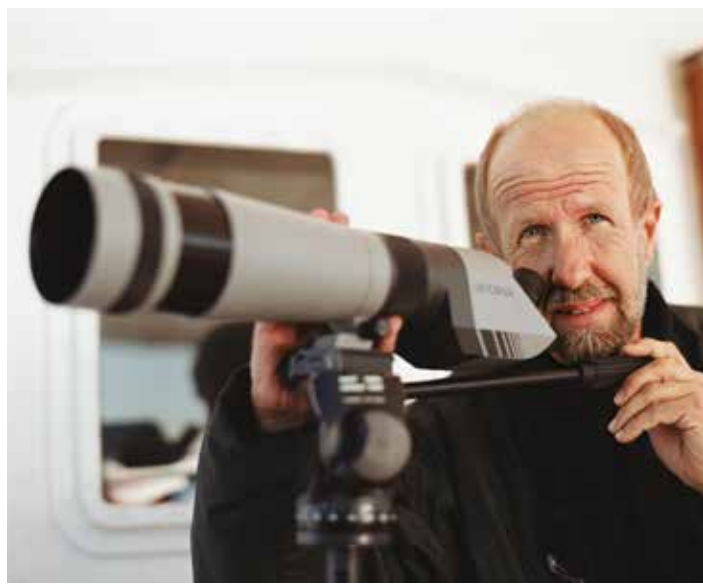
National Geographic Explorer provides a welcoming home in the remote Arctic. She is a beautiful ship, built with careful attention to details and comfort. Her 81 cabins, including many with balconies, are well-appointed and relaxing, while her public spaces, with their expansive windows, maintain a dialogue with the sea and the scenery.



Spacious Category 5 cabin with balcony.

And she fosters an intimate, learning-oriented expedition environment. This is not the passive state of cruising; this is active engagement with the environment and its creatures, seeing and then turning to companion experts for answers to questions, or a sense of context—especially valuable in the High Arctic which plays such a vital role in the climate change discussion.

Opposite (clockwise from top): Guests take in the magnificent scenery from their Upper Deck suite balcony; the mudroom provides ample space to gear up for each day's outing; Zodiac cruise offers eye-level view of glacier; Explorer can safely navigate polar passages; kayaking along Svalbadr's pristine coast.



TRAVEL WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM

Your expedition leader is an outstanding individual, who guides and motivates the team of naturalists, marine biologist, geologist, glaciologist, historian, and undersea specialist who accompany your voyage. They help us spot polar bears in the vast whiteness of the Arctic pack ice to deliver insightful observations, and experience the thrill of genuine discovery. Their commitment and passion engage you, and their knowledge illuminates the facets of all you see and do during your expedition. In addition, a wellness specialist helps you benefit from the tonic of wellness, while a video chronicler records the entire voyage, creating a permanent record.



Norwegian-born Carl Erik Kilander is a veteran naturalist, who is professionally involved with environmental issues and natural resource management in Svalbard.

SHOOT WITH TOP PROS



Whether you think of yourself as a photographer or simply want to capture the moments at the heart of your voyage, you'll take your best photos ever on this

voyage. A top National Geographic photographer is on board to provide inspiration and advice gleaned over the course of a significant career. Plus, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor is at your service to help you understand your camera and its settings, the basics of composition, and the scenery and wildlife at which you aim your camera. And regardless of your skill level, you'll return home a more confident photographer with fantastic photos.



Travel with National Geographic photographer Erika Larsen, who has followed and published a book on Sami reindeer herds in the Arctic.

Be sure to visit the B&H Locker aboard ship to try out new, top-quality photo gear—with our compliments.



Opposite (clockwise from top): Guests photographing polar bears; ace spotter scans the ice for bears; naturalists point out wildlife during Zodiac outings; undersea specialist lowers ROV to capture undersea images for playback in the lounge.

LAND OF THE ICE BEARS: AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF ARCTIC SVALBARD

11 DAYS/9 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER*



Zodiacs provide the flexibility to land almost anywhere.

A high Arctic archipelago situated between Norway and the North Pole, Svalbard is a place of deep fjords, snowcapped mountains, massive sheets of ice, and magnificent polar bears. Travel under the midnight sun aboard *National Geographic Explorer*, and experience nature in its purest form.

DAYS 1 AND 2: U.S./OSLO, NORWAY

Depart on an overnight flight to Oslo. Upon arrival, check into the Thon Hotel Bristol (or similar). Explore this charming city, and stroll among the famed Vigeland sculptures—hundreds of life-size human figures set in terraced parkland. Visit the Fram Museum, dedicated to the wooden ship sailed by Norwegian explorers Nansen and Amundsen. (Day 2: B)

DAY 3: OSLO/LONGYEARBYEN/EMBARK

Depart Oslo on a charter flight, and enjoy breathtaking vistas en route to Longyearbyen, the largest settlement in Svalbard. Embark *National Geographic Explorer*, your base for the next six days. (B,L,D)

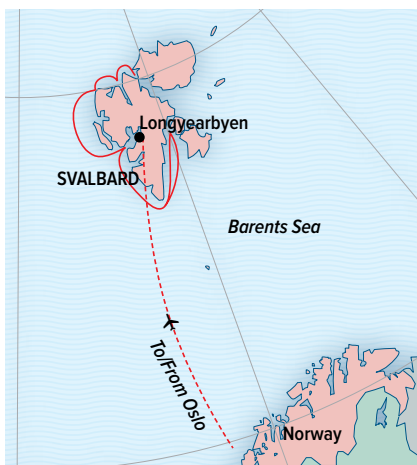
DAYS 4–9: EXPLORING SVALBARD

This voyage is undertaken in the spirit of discovery, and our travel in the archipelago is exploratory by design. In a region ruled not by humans but by polar bears, we let nature guide our course. Svalbard lies north of the



Reindeer grazing the tundra.

Arctic Circle, where the summer midnight sun never sets. With a fully stabilized ice-class expedition ship, we are able to probe the ice in search of wildlife. Our exact day-to-day itinerary remains flexible, depending on local ice and weather conditions. Zodiacs and kayaks take us close to experience the region's geologic features and the wildlife that flourishes during the summer months. With a National Geographic photographer and a seasoned naturalist staff, venture to the foot of vast tidewater glaciers, kayak among sparkling icebergs, and explore fjords that split the coastline. Hike through miniature gardens blooming on the tundra, and search the edge of the pack ice for polar bears, walrus, seals, reindeer, and arctic foxes. Svalbard is one of the few places on the planet to observe majestic polar bears in their natural habitat. (B,L,D)



DAY 10: LONGYEARBYEN/DISEMBARK/OSLO

Disembark in Longyearbyen and enjoy time to explore. Founded by an American coal executive in 1906, this is one of the northernmost human settlements on Earth. Fly back to Oslo and overnight at the Radisson Blu Airport Hotel. (B,L)

DAY 11: OSLO/FLY TO U.S. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

- » [Norway's Fjords, Pre-voyage, 5 Days](#)
- » [Iceland's Natural Wonders, Post-voyage, 4 Days](#)

Call for details.



Polar bear walking the ice edge.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

CAPACITY: 148 guests in 81 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: Bahamas. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 367 feet.

National Geographic Explorer is a state-of-the-art expedition ship and the flagship of the Lindblad fleet. She is a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel, with an ice-reinforced hull, enabling her to navigate polar passages while providing exceptional comfort. She carries kayaks and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft. An undersea specialist operates a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and sophisticated undersea video equipment, extending access to the underwater world.

PUBLIC AREAS: Bistro bar; chart room; restaurant; global gallery; library; lounge with full-service bar and state-of-the-art facilities for films, slideshows, and presentations; mud room with lockers for expedition gear, and observation lounge. An “open bridge” provides guests an opportunity to meet the officers and captain and learn about navigation.

MEALS: Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menu is international with local flair.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities, and climate controls. Some cabins have balconies. Equipped with Ethernet and Wi-Fi connections and USB ports for mobile devices.

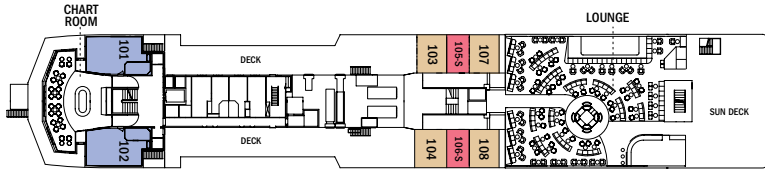
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiac landing craft, kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, Splash-Cam, underwater video camera, crow’s nest remote-controlled camera, video microscope.

SPECIAL FEATURES: A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, Global Perspectives guest speaker; National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, video chronicler, internet café, and laundry.

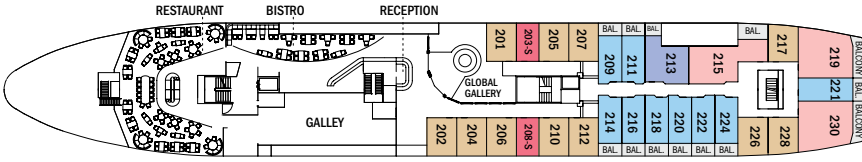
WELLNESS: The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a glass-enclosed fitness center, outdoor stretching area, LEXspa treatment room, and sauna.



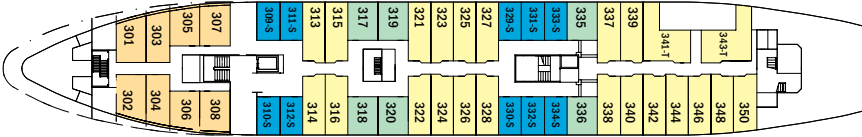
Right from top: Dining room with unassigned seating and a casual atmosphere; comfortable Category 4 cabin; standard bathroom; fitness center with panoramic views.



VERANDA DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless otherwise indicated as solo.

CATEGORY 1: **\$10,430**

Main Deck with one or two portholes #301-308

CATEGORY 2: **\$11,150**

Main Deck with window #317-320, 335-336

CATEGORY 3: **\$11,630**

Main Deck with window #313-316, 321-328, 337-340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350

CATEGORY 4: **\$12,320**

Upper and Veranda Decks with window #103-104, 107-108, 201-202, 204-207, 210, 212, 217, 226, 228

CATEGORY 5: **\$15,620**

Upper Deck with balcony #209, 211, 214, 216, 218, 220-222, 224

CATEGORY 6: **\$17,100**

Veranda Deck–Suite #101-102; Upper Deck-Suite with balcony #213

CATEGORY 7: **\$19,520**

Upper Deck–Suite with balcony #215, 219, 230

CATEGORY A SOLO: **\$13,950**

Main Deck with window #309-312, 329-334

CATEGORY B SOLO: **\$14,540**

Upper and Veranda Decks with window #105-106, 203, 208

CATEGORY 3 TRIPLE: *****

Main Deck with window #341, 343

*THIRD PERSON RATES: Available in the designated triple occupancy cabins at one-half the double occupancy rate. Cabins #341, 343, 101, 102, 215, 219, and 230 can accommodate a third person.

SOLE OCCUPANCY CABINS: Available in Categories A and B.

SHARED ACCOMMODATIONS: Available in Categories 1 and 2.

NOTE: Cabins #209, 211, 214, 216-218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 303-306—These cabins have one queen-sized bed. All other double cabins have two lower single beds; some can convert to a queen-sized bed.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ Accommodations
- ✓ All meals and beverages, including alcohol
- ✓ Cappuccinos, lattes & complimentary refillable water bottle
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda on demand
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres & snacks during lounge recap
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ Traditional Swedish sauna
- ✓ Fitness center with elliptical, treadmill, free weights and more
- ✓ The guidance & company of the expedition staff
- ✓ Gratuities to the ship's crew

ASHORE

- ✓ Hotel accommodations with breakfast
- ✓ Transfers to & from group flights
- ✓ The expertise of the expedition staff

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All shore activities
- ✓ Zodiac & kayak explorations
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge
- ✓ Photo instruction
- ✓ Morning stretch classes with wellness specialist

SPECIAL OFFER

BRING THE KIDS: We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, take \$500 off the double occupancy price for each person under 18.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXPEDITION COST INCLUDES: Accommodations aboard ship; two hotel nights with breakfast in Oslo; all meals and beverages aboard ship; transfers to/from airport if traveling on group flights; all shore excursions, sightseeing, and entrance fees; use of kayaks; taxes, service charges, and all gratuities; services of a ship physician and expedition staff.
NOT INCLUDED: Air transportation including charter flight; meals not indicated; extensions; passport and visa fees; travel protection plan; voyage DVD; items of a personal nature such as email, tvoyage DVD, laundry, and premium alcoholic beverages.

SAMPLE AIRFARES: Round-trip Newark/Oslo: Economy from \$800; Business from \$3,590. Charter airfare (round-trip Oslo/Longyearbyen): \$760 per person. Lindblad will assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee. Charter flight must be ticketed by Lindblad (service fee will not apply). Fares subject to change.

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of US\$1,500 per person is required at the time of reservation and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due 120 days prior to departure.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel insurance is available at an additional cost. Information will be sent to you upon registration.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to

verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country, if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country's requirement.

SMOKING POLICY: Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Maritime Enterprises liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date, and are subject to change. Lindblad Maritime Enterprises reserves the right to impose surcharges based on increases in the actual cost of fuel.

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

CANCELLATION POLICY	
Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
180 or more days	\$750
179–120 days	Advance payment cost
119–90 days	25% of trip cost
89–60 days	50% of trip cost
59–0 days	No refund
<i>We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.</i>	

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The Association of Former Students



Please send reservation to:
The Association of Former Students
Attn: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918
Phone: 979-845-7514
Toll Free: 800-633-7514
Fax: 979-845-9263

RESERVATION FORM: LAND OF THE ICE BEARS

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER—MAY 23-JUNE 2, 2018

Please reserve _____ place(s).

Name 1: _____
(As it appears on passport)

Name 1: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Preferred name for name badge)

Name 2: _____
(As it appears on passport)

Name 2: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Preferred name for name badge)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Accommodations: Double Single Twin share w/friend
 Share with roommate assigned by tour operator

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:
1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____

Please send me information on the:
 Iceland extension Norway's Fjords extension
 Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ _____ (US\$1,500 per person)
Check made payable to **Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.**

Charge my advance payment of \$ _____ (US\$1,500 per person)
to my Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Account Number: _____ Expires: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- » See the very symbol of the Arctic—the polar bear in its natural habitat, on the sea ice.
- » Take naturalist-led walks, and cruise among beautiful icebergs in a Zodiac or a kayak.
- » Experience the legendary midnight sun: the ethereal light of the northern summer.
- » Watch for walruses, bearded and ringed seals, arctic foxes, and reindeer.
- » Enjoy superlative photo ops and onboard photo assistance.



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Texas A&M University
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918

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