

# SVALBARD

WITH WILD WONDERS OF EUROPE & POLARQUEST

3 - 11 June, 30 June - 8 July, 28 June - 8 July, 16 - 28 September, 2012



WILD WONDERS™  
OF EUROPE



PolarQuest



# POLAR BEAR QUEST

in association with Wild Wonders of Europe



We visit Svalbard early in the season, when the midnight sun reigns supreme. The bird colonies are teeming with life and the tundra's flower buds are bursting. Ice still keeps the islands in its grip and we can admire the ever-changing ice formations, while searching for walrus, polar bears and much more. On this trip we have a special treat in form of a knowledgeable photographer from Wild Wonders of Europe, who will teach us more about photography in the Arctic.

## Day 1: Longyearbyen

Arrive in Longyearbyen and transfer to the hotel.

## Day 2 - 8: Svalbard

We start our adventure in Svalbard by exploring the High Arctic capital of Longyearbyen. In the afternoon we embark our expedition ship and sail out through the spectacular Ice Fjord. We are now in a part of the world where we are totally dependent on ice and weather conditions. Our exact itinerary depends on these factors and on the wildlife we encounter. Our ambition is to make landings every day with our rigid Zodiac craft – here are some examples of places we may visit:

## Barentsburg and Ny Ålesund

Not far from Norwegian Longyearbyen is the Russian enclave Barentsburg, a fascinating coal mining settlement. In the scientific village of Ny Ålesund, Arctic terns nest by the main street and we often see wild reindeer grazing. It was from here that Amundsen and Nobile started their heroic expeditions to the North Pole.

## Northwest Svalbard

On the islands of Danskøya, Amsterdamøya and Ytre Norskøya there are still visible remnants from the bustling activity during the 17th century whaling period. Two of the most courageous attempts to reach the North Pole started on Danskøya. Swedish balloonist Andrée made an attempt with hydrogen balloon and American journalist Wellman started out with airship. The site is still littered with interesting remnants from these expeditions.

## Fantastic fjords

Svalbard offers the visitor countless spectacular fjords. During our journey we will explore a few of them such as:

**Liefdefjorden**, meaning “the fjord of love”, is lined with snow-covered mountain peaks and at its base we hope to cruise along the face of the spectacular Monaco Glacier. Many common eiders and pink-footed geese nest in the area and if lucky we see the rare king eider. In **Krossfjorden** we delight in the beautifully sculptured front of the 14th of July Glacier to the raucous greeting of the large numbers of kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots nesting on the nearby

cliffs. **Raudfjorden** is an area of immense natural beauty – dominated by beautiful glaciers it is also a favourite spot for seals and the bird cliffs are bursting with life.

## North Spitsbergen and Hinlopen

North of Spitsbergen we may meet the pack ice edge. Not many ships venture here and we can marvel at the silence and grandeur of this icy landscape. Chances of meeting polar bears increase as we sail along the ice floes. If the ice allows we may enter Hinlopen Strait. Here is Alkefjellet, a sheer, basaltic cliff, which is the home to some 200 000 Brünnich's guillemots.

## Day 9: Longyearbyen

Early morning we reach Longyearbyen and begin our journey home.

*Please note: Our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and wildlife. The places mentioned above are just examples of some of the many sites Svalbard has to offer. We always strive to maximise your experience, but remember that flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!*





## POLAR BEAR QUEST ON M/S QUEST

**Duration:** 9 days.

**Dates:** 3 - 11 June, 2012.

**Group Size:** Maximum 53 passengers.

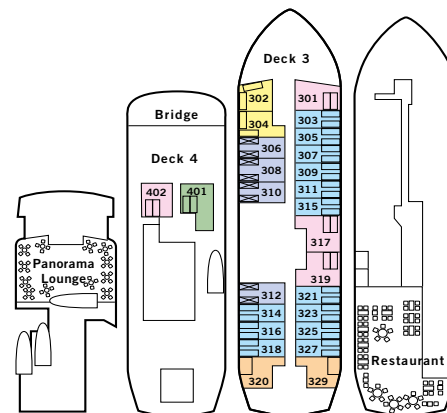
**Accommodation:** Cabin on *M/S Quest*, hotel.

**Transport:** Expedition ship, Zodiacs.

**Price:** From EUR 3 550 per person.

**RATE INCLUDES:** 7 nights on board the *M/S Quest* · 1 night in hotel in Longyearbyen · All meals · An experienced Expedition Leader, knowledgeable guides and a professional photographer from Wild Wonders of Europe · Lectures on board and ashore · All shore excursions by Zodiac · A detailed post-expedition log

**NOT INCLUDED:** Flight to/from Longyearbyen · Travel and cancellation insurance · The customary gratuity to the ship's crew · Personal expenses such as bar and shop charges



Deck	Cabin category	Price per person in EUR
3	F: Triple cabin (upper/lower berth)	3 550
3	E: Twin cabin (2 twin beds)	4 150
3	D: Twin cabin Plus (2 twin beds)	4 450
3	C: Double cabin (double bed)	4 850
3/4	B: Double cabin Superior (large double bed)	5 550
4	A: Owner's cabin (large double bed)	5 850
3	E: Twin cabin for single use	7 050



## POLAR BEAR QUEST ON OCEAN NOVA

**Duration:** 9 days.

**Dates:** 30 June - 8 July, 2012.

**Group Size:** Maximum 73 passengers.

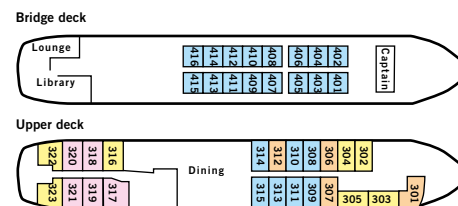
**Accommodation:** Cabin on *Ocean Nova*, hotel.

**Transport:** Expedition ship, Zodiacs.

**Price:** From EUR 3 350 per person.

**RATE INCLUDES:** 7 nights on board the *Ocean Nova* · 1 night in hotel in Longyearbyen · All meals · An experienced Expedition Leader, knowledgeable guides and a professional photographer from Wild Wonders of Europe · Lectures on board and ashore · All shore excursions by Zodiac · A detailed post-expedition log

**NOT INCLUDED:** Flight to/from Longyearbyen · Travel and cancellation insurance · The customary gratuity to the ship's crew · Personal expenses such as bar and shop charges



Deck	Cabin category	Prices in EUR per person
Upper deck	Triple cabin (2 lower and 1 upper bed)	3 350
Upper deck	Twin cabin (1 upper and 1 lower bed)	3 650
Bridge/Upper	Twin cabin (2 lower beds)	3 950
Upper deck	Superior twin cabin (2 lower beds)	4 950
Upper deck	Twin cabin for single use	5 450



# AUTUMN IN SVALBARD

in association with Wild Wonders of Europe

Autumn in Svalbard is pure magic. The light is gentle and the landscape is constantly changing into different and colourful moods. The ice has withdrawn, which makes it possible for us to reach the more unexplored areas of eastern Svalbard, including the legendary and remote Kvitøya – White Island. This trip includes twelve nights on board our expedition ship and you will experience this enchanting Arctic wilderness like never before. On this trip we have a special treat in form of a knowledgeable photographer from Wild Wonders of Europe, who will teach us more about photography in the Arctic.

## Day 1: Longyearbyen

We arrive in Longyearbyen, embark our expedition ship and sail out through the beautiful Ice Fjord.

## Day 2 - 12: Svalbard

We are now in a part of the world where we are totally dependent on ice and weather conditions. Our exact itinerary depends on these factors and on the wildlife we encounter. The goal is to make daily landings with our Zodiac craft – here are some examples of places we may visit:

### Lilliehøök Glacier

In Lilliehøök Bay you can marvel at the Lilliehøök Glacier that stretches four kilometres from side to side. The glacier is active, producing many small icebergs that majestically sail out through the fjord.

### Liefdefjord

High, snow-covered mountaintops stand in sharp contrast against the red-coloured mountainsides. At the end of the fjord is the impressive Monaco Glacier, named by a Monegasque expedition sponsored by Prince Albert I.

### Mossel Bay

Here we find the remains from Polhem, the world's northernmost house, where Swedish explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld, who later became first man to navigate the Northeast Passage, wintered in 1872 - 1873.

## Sjuøyane

These islands are situated north of Nordaustlandet and constitute Svalbard's northernmost outpost. On one of the islands, Rossøya, Andrée and his companions had one of their depots with supplies in case their, by now legendary, balloon trip in the late 1800s would fail...

### Palanderbukta

A wonderfully beautiful fjord, that stretches far into the mighty ice cap of Nordaustlandet.

### Nordaustlandet - Bråsvellbreen

Nordaustlandet is the second largest island in the archipelago and is almost completely covered by ice. The giant glacier Bråsvellbreen stretches out for 200 kilometres! The 15-20-metre high ice edge is intersected by hundreds of melt-waterfalls.

### Storøya

Storøya lies to the east of Nordaustlandet. Polar bears frequent the area and it is a favourite haul-out for walrus. A large icecap covers the majority of this isolated island.

### Kvitøya

Few people have ever set foot here. The name translates to White Island and this is where Andrée and his men were found 33 years after their attempt to reach the North Pole by hydrogen balloon. They pitched their last camp on Kvitøya where a monument now stands commemorating

these brave souls.

## Barentsøya and Edgeøya

These islands south of Nordaustlandet offer magnificent landscapes of vast tundra. Chances are good to encounter walrus, Arctic fox and Svalbard reindeer here.

## Day 13: Longyearbyen

Today we reach Longyearbyen, leave our ship and transfer to the airport.

*Please note: Our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and wildlife. The places mentioned above are just examples of some of the many sites Svalbard has to offer. We always strive to maximise your experience, but remember that flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!*





**AUTUMN IN SVALBARD** arrives in August. The light is gentle and clear, and in September the landscape is full of wondrous contrasts in crisp autumn colours. There is no longer daylight around the clock, but in return there can be stunning sunsets! The ice has withdrawn, and maybe it is possible to go all the way around Spitsbergen. Historically, many whales and the largest groups of walrus have been spotted during this time of the year. The polar bears follow the ice and are mainly seen in the eastern parts of the archipelago, which is the region we are aiming for during this expedition. Fog, rain and snowfall may occur, with temperatures at this time of year mostly between +5 and -5° C.

**WHO SHOULD GO ON THIS EXPEDITION?** This is the trip for those of you who want a couple of extra days on Svalbard to experience the rarely explored eastern parts of the islands. The trip is suitable whether you are visiting Svalbard for the first time or may already have been there, but now wish to experience the archipelago in a different guise. The light this time of the year is fantastic, something to take into account if you are a keen photographer.



## AUTUMN IN SVALBARD ON M/S QUEST

**Duration:** 13 days.

**Dates:** 16 - 28 September 2012.

**Group Size:** Maximum 53 passengers.

**Accommodation:** Cabin on board *M/S Quest*.

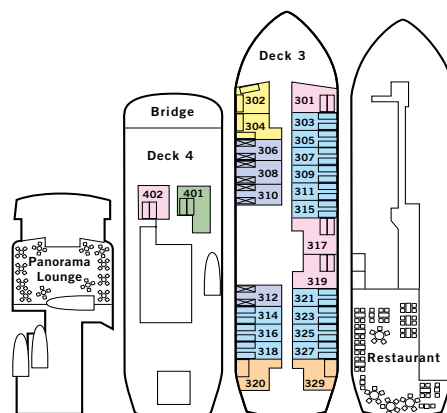
**Transport:** Expedition ship, Zodiacs.

**Price:** From EUR 4 950 per person.

**RATE INCLUDES:** 12 nights on board the *M/S Quest* · All meals · An experienced Expedition Leader, knowledgeable guides and a professional photographer from Wild Wonders of Europe · Lectures on board and ashore · All shore excursions by Zodiac · A detailed post-expedition log

**NOT INCLUDED:** Flight to and from Longyearbyen · Travel and cancellation insurance · The customary gratuity to the ship's crew · Personal expenses such as bar and shop charges

Deck	Cabin category	Price per person in EUR
3	F: Triple cabin (upper/lower berth)	4 950
3	E: Twin cabin (2 twin beds)	6 350
3	D: Twin cabin Plus (2 twin beds)	6 850
3	C: Double cabin (double bed)	7 350
3/4	B: Double cabin Superior (large double bed)	7 850
4	A: Owner's cabin (large double bed)	8 750
3	E: Twin cabin for single use	10 650





# EXPLORATION OF SVALBARD

in association with Wild Wonders of Europe

Welcome to a magic world of midnight sun and pack ice, of glittering glaciers and abundant wildlife! Our classic expedition ship *M/S Stockholm* exclusively carries just 12 passengers, assuring you the best possible experience. Svalbard is unique. The overwhelming scenery and unpredictable encounters with animals such as polar bears and walrus. Not to forget the delicious meals, the comfortable cabins and the friendly atmosphere. When *M/S Stockholm* sets out across the Ice Fjord, we are heading for adventure. Anything can happen. Keep watching, you may be the first who spots a polar bear! On this trip we have a special treat in form of a knowledgeable photographer from Wild Wonders of Europe, who will teach us more about photography in the Arctic.

**Day 1:** We arrive in Longyearbyen, embark our expedition ship and leave civilisation behind us.

**Day 2 - 10:** We are now in a part of the world where we are totally dependent on ice and weather conditions. Our exact itinerary depends on these factors. The goal is to make landings each day with our Zodiacs and the following are examples of exciting places we may visit:

In Kongsfjorden, famous for its beauty, we find the scientific settlement Ny Ålesund. Arctic terns nest by the main street and we often see wild reindeer grazing. It was from here that Amundsen and Nobile started their heroic expeditions to the North Pole. Svalbard offers the visitor spectacular fjords such as Liefdefjorden, Krossfjorden and Raudfjorden - areas of immense natural beauty - dominated by beautifully sculptured glaciers. The ice floes are frequently visited by resting seals and walrus. North of Spitsbergen we may meet the pack ice edge. Not many ships venture here

and we can marvel at the silence and grandeur of this icy landscape. Chances of meeting polar bears increase as we sail along the ice floes. We may enter Hinlopen Strait. Here is Alkefjellet, a basaltic cliff, which is the home for some 200 000 Brunnich's guillemots. The island of Nordaustlandet is covered by an enormous ice cap and fascinates naturalists as well as historians. There are huge glacier fronts here, intersected by hundreds of melt-waterfalls. Even further east is White Island. In favourable weather conditions, we may land on this island, where Andrée and his men were found 33 years after their unsuccessful attempt to reach the North Pole. Barentsøya and Edgeøya offer magnificent landscapes of vast tundra. Chances are good to encounter walrus, Arctic fox and reindeer here.

**Day 11:** We arrive in Longyearbyen early morning, disembark the ship and begin our journey home.

*Please note: Our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and wildlife sightings. The places mentioned above are just examples of some of the many sites Svalbard has to offer. We always strive to maximise your experience, but remember that flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!*



## EXPLORATION OF SVALBARD ON BOARD M/S STOCKHOLM

**Duration:** 11 days.

**Dates:** 28 June - 8 July, 2012.

**Group Size:** Maximum 12 participants.

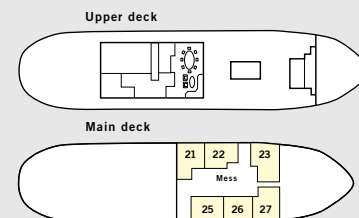
**Accommodation:** *M/S Stockholm*.

**Transport:** Expedition ship and Zodiacs.

**Price:** EUR 7 250 per person.

**RATE INCLUDES:** 10 nights on board the *M/S Stockholm* · All meals · All wine, beer and drinks · An experienced Expedition Leader and a professional photographer from Wild Wonders of Europe · Lectures on board and on shore · All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac · The customary gratuity to the ship's crew

**NOT INCLUDED:** Flight to/from Longyearbyen · Travel and cancellation insurance · Personal expenses



Deck	Cabin category	Price per person in EUR
Main Deck	Twin cabin with private facilities	7 250

# INFORMATION ON OUR EXPEDITION SHIPS

## OCEAN NOVA

The expedition vessel *Ocean Nova* is a sister ship to our popular *M/S Quest*. She was built in Denmark in 1992 and in 2004/2005 she was completely refurbished and has now a career as a small and comfortable expedition ship. The *Ocean Nova* takes 73 passengers in single, twin and triple cabins, all with sea-view and private facilities. The triple cabins and some of the twin cabins on upper deck have upper and lower berths. All other cabins have two lower berths. In your cabin you also find a desk with a chair and ample storage space for clothes and equipment. In the dining room you are treated to delicious meals in between landings and in the panorama lounge you can enjoy a drink with a breathtaking view of the surrounding polar landscape. This is where PolarQuest's on board specialists entertain and educate you with lectures on the area's flora, fauna and history. Passengers are welcome on the bridge around the clock and there is always something to see or search for from the spacious observation decks. There is a friendly and informal atmosphere on board. Travelling with this small expedition ship offers an entirely different experience and perspective than you can get on a larger and more conventional cruise ship.

## M/S QUEST

The *M/S Quest* was built in Denmark in 1992 to serve as a ferry on Greenland's west coast. In 2004/2005 she was completely refurbished and now has a career as a small and comfortable expedition ship. *M/S Quest* takes 53 passengers in 26 cabins, all with sea-view and private facilities. The triple cabins on deck three have upper and lower berths. All other cabins have two lower berths or a double bed. In your cabin you also find a desk with chair and storage space for clothes and equipment. The superior cabins on deck three and four are spacious and have a separate sitting area and TV/DVD. The Owner's cabin, next to the Captain's cabin, on deck four has a double bed, two large picture windows, a small sitting area and TV/DVD. In the dining room you are treated to delicious meals in between landings and in the panorama lounge you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the surrounding polar landscape. Here you can listen to entertaining lectures on the area's flora, fauna and history. In the lounge you also find a well-stocked bar and a small library. The ship has spacious observation decks where you can enjoy the beautiful vistas and search for seabirds, whales and polar bears. Travelling with this small expedition ship offers a much greater focus on the destination than is the case with larger vessels.

## M/S STOCKHOLM

The *M/S Stockholm* exclusively carries a maximum of 12 passengers in outside twin cabins, all with private facilities. The *M/S Stockholm* is a classic vessel built in 1953 for the Swedish National Maritime Administration. In 1999 she was totally refitted and started her career as a comfortable polar passenger ship. She is a marvellous piece of maritime history with beautiful brass details and pine decks. On board the ship you will enjoy delicious meals in the company of likeminded travellers. All wine, beer and drinks are included in the trip fare. With such a small party on board, this is like travelling on a private yacht. An entirely different experience to that of a larger and more conventional vessel! The *M/S Stockholm* is also ideal for private parties who wish to explore the Svalbard archipelago. The owner, Captain and crew of the ship have long experience in Arctic waters, and are actively involved in making expeditions in tune with nature conservation. The crew on board *M/S Stockholm* are great enthusiasts of the unique wildlife and unspoilt nature too. The genuine curiosity of the crew is a prerequisite for expedition cruises of this kind. A trip on board *M/S Stockholm* in these northern waters, with its unique wildlife and pristine nature is an experience of a lifetime, simply hard to beat.



# PolarQuest



P.O. Box 180

SE- 401 23 Göteborg, Sweden

Phone: +46 31 333 17 30

Fax: +46 31 333 17 31

e-mail: [info@polar-quest.com](mailto:info@polar-quest.com)

[www.polar-quest.com](http://www.polar-quest.com)



**WILD WONDERS  
OF EUROPE**

Wild Wonders of Europe is about sharing the amazing natural wonders of our continent with 700 million Europeans and the World! Many Europeans know much more about nature in Africa or America than about nature on their own doorstep. We want to change that. We want to place Europe's stunning biodiversity on centre stage. Using amazing images to create a love affair between us (that includes you!) and Europe's variety of life. Wild Wonders of Europe assigned 69 of the continent's most talented nature photographers on a quest across 48 European countries - the largest photography-based conservation communication initiative in the World. Four of these photographers will now be cicerones on four Svalbard departures. [www.wild-wonders.com](http://www.wild-wonders.com)

PolarQuest are proud members of AECO (Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators). The organisation actively governs the tourism in Svalbard and promotes sustainable travels in the area.

Association of  
Arctic Expedition Cruise  
Operators **AECO** 

PHOTO: MIREILLE DE LA LEZ (P. 2) HELBILD.SE (P. 3) J-P LAHALL (P. 6) OLE JØRGEN LIODDEN (BACK COVER & P. 6)  
LARS-INE LUNDBERG (P. 4) ARNE NAEVRA (P. 4) PETER ÖHLLSSON (P. 5) POLARQUEST (P. 6) ADAM RHEBORE (P. 2 & 7)  
DIERK RONNEBERGER (P. 2) VERA SIMONSSON (P. 2, 3 & 5) OLA SKINNARMO (P. 2) LISA STROM (FRONT COVER)  
JONAS SUNDQUIST (P. 3) OSCAR WESTMAN (P. 6). TEXT: POLARQUEST. DESIGN & PRODUCTION: [WWW.ALINDERDESIGN.SE](http://WWW.ALINDERDESIGN.SE)