

# Jewels of the Arctic

Photography Expedition

August 16<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2015

The ultimate 14 day/13 night  
Photography Expedition to the  
European Arctic taking in the  
very best of Greenland and  
Spitsbergen!



Remote



Majestic



Surreal



## When

August 16th to August 29th 2015

Positions are filled strictly on a first come, first served basis.

## Where

The trip will set sail from Isafjordur in Iceland and will be taking in the very best of Greenland and Spitsbergen before docking in Longyearbyen in Svalbard.

This expedition has been structured to provide the best possible photographic opportunities. Greenland's remote East coast shows off the immensity of the icecap, fantastic icebergs and massive granite spires rising over 1000 meters above the fjords. Spitsbergen's rugged Northwest coast comprises mountains, tundra and fjords.

## About

This expedition offers a complete Arctic experience for photography: tundra walks amidst reindeer and exquisite dwarf vegetation, zodiac cruises near carving glaciers, hikes to breathtaking mountain vistas and warm welcomes into indigenous communities. We will likely see and photograph Polar Bears, Reindeer, Arctic Foxes, Walrus, Glaciers, Icebergs and more. It is going to be a truly spectacular photographic trip for a very limited number of photographers aboard an ice hardened expedition class ship The Polar Pioneer.

The expedition is for a strictly limited number of 50 participants plus leaders and expedition guides. Whilst many trips to the Arctic take 100+ tourists this expedition is capped at a maximum of 50 dedicated photographers in order to ensure the best possible experience and photographic opportunities. We will be using an ice hardened expedition ship with a highly experienced crew in order to ensure we get as close as possible to big ice and place you in the best locations for making photographs. Our expedition ship is equipped with sufficient zodiacs and crew for all photographers to be shooting simultaneously with plenty of room to spare for camera equipment.

A large, translucent blue iceberg floating in the ocean under a cloudy sky. The iceberg has a jagged, layered appearance with various shades of blue and white. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

Rich, Beautiful  
and Mysterious





# The Expedition Experience

Dedicated Zodiacs for photographers make for an optimal photography experience.

There will be informal talks and image reviews and plenty of opportunity for one-on-one instruction for those who wish it throughout the length of the trip. As well as informal side by side shooting from the deck of the ship, on zodiac and during shore landings there will be lots of opportunity to discuss all aspects of photography and image making with like-minded individuals.

These expedition notes will give you a brief summary of what you will discover on your voyage to the European Arctic. Our emphasis is on photography, personal contact with the environment, wildlife encounters, and visiting sites of historical and cultural significance. Your safety is our priority, closely followed by showing you the best Arctic experience possible.

Please remember that the enclosed itinerary is merely a guide. This voyage is expedition-style, and our adventure will be influenced by the cold sea current from Siberia along the east coast, which can result in lower temperatures and means that even in summer, frequent pack ice can make access difficult. Weather and sea conditions will dictate our daily explorations. We'll delight in taking advantage of spontaneous opportunities and there is always an element of the unexpected. Our expedition staff will keep you updated and provide you with daily programs during the voyage.



## Greenland

Greenland is the world's largest island, almost totally covered by the second largest icecap on Earth, and boasts the planet's largest national park. It's East coast is sparsely settled by small communities of Inuit hunters who eke out a living in one of the harshest environments on the planet. We will marvel at the complex geology of the oldest island in the world where we will see acres of gravel beaches, dumped by Ice-Age glaciers and intriguing flat-topped mesas striated with layers of ancient deposits rising dramatically between massive glaciers.

Scoresby Sund is the worlds biggest fjord, a favoured hunting place of the local Inuit people and the birthplace of Greenland's famous big Icebergs.

## Scoresby Sund & Kaiser Franz Josef





From zodiacs we'll cruise along the massive glacial ice walls. We'll also cruise in search of Walrus and pushing through the pack ice in search of polar bears.

## Monacobreen Glacier

## Spitsbergen

This wondrous archipelago of Svalbard is the world's most readily accessible bit of the polar north and one of the most spectacular places imaginable. Meaning 'Island of the Cold Shores', Svalbard is located between 74° - 81° N and 10° - 35° E and has a total land mass of 63,000 square kilometres.

Spitsbergen is the largest island in the Svalbard island archipelago. It was named by Dutchman, Willem Barents in 1596, when he was on his way to Novaya Zemlya, searching for a northern route to Asia. The island was first used as a whaling base in the 17th and 18th centuries, after which it was abandoned. Coal mining started at the beginning of the 20th century, and several permanent communities were established. The Svalbard Treaty of 1920 recognizes Norwegian sovereignty and established Svalbard as a free economic and demilitarized zone. With a population of approximately 3000, Spitsbergen is still virtually an unspoilt wilderness.



# The Wildlife of the Arctic



## Wildlife

The Arctic is one of the harshest environments on our planet yet a number of species have adapted and survive in this climate.

Whilst on this expedition there is the possibility to see:

- Muskox, these mid sized mammals closely related goats more so than oxen can be seen grazing
- Walrus, the largest seal species, with its enormous prominent tusks
- Ring and Bearded seals hunting for food and playing around in the sea and on shore,
- Pods of Whales may be spotted by those keeping an eye out from the comfort of the ships bridge
- Arctic Hares may be seen dotting the landscape with their white fur
- Countless sea and land birds
- Reindeer can be found grazing the tundras of Spitsburgen
- The worlds largest land terrestrial carnivore, the majestic Polar Bear



# Majestic Icebergs

A large, jagged iceberg with a prominent peak and several cracks, floating in the water. The iceberg is reflected in the calm, still water below. The sky is a mix of soft blues and oranges, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Other smaller icebergs are visible in the distance.

From the mammoth tabular icebergs to the shapely non-tabular to the smallest of growlers, icebergs are a part of the Greenland experience.

Greenland is the Iceberg capital of the world. These floating ice sculptures can be transparent, white and even blue.

Covered with a variety of textures and veins these icebergs offer numerous facets to photograph from Zodiac, ship and shore.



# Itinerary

## **Day 1: Reykjavik - Isafjordur**

After making your own way to Reykjavik Domestic Airport (please note there are two airports in Reykjavik), this evening you will board your 40-minute flight to Isafjordur, where you will be transferred with your luggage to Polar Pioneer to begin your voyage. Please note this flight does not include any refreshments. The Jewels of the Arctic voyage begins with our cruising out of the harbour.

## **Day 2: At Sea**

We spend the day cruising across the Denmark Strait. The strong icy currents have isolated East Greenland from the rest of the world for millennia. These currents carry nutrients from the Polar Basin, attracting large numbers of fish, seals and whales. Climatic conditions and the concentration of ice in the vicinity often create thick morning fog that vanishes with the onset of the midday sun.

## **Days 3 - 9 Scoresby Sund & Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord**

We will attempt to enter Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord, a remote and rarely visited fjord system with countless opportunities for exploration that lies within the Northeast Greenland National Park. Cruising through Kong Oskar Fjord we will marvel at the geological beauty of the mountains. We will then head south along the coast of Liverpool Land, with our passage dependent on ice conditions. We aim to reach Scoresby Sund, the world's biggest fjord and a favourite hunting ground of the local Inuit. Massive glaciers dump into this fjord, the birthplace of the famous big Greenland icebergs.

We plan to visit the remote Inuit community of Ittoqqortoormiit (Scoresby Town) and to hike across the tundra in search of ancient graveyards and summer villages occupied 3000 years ago by Eskimos. If we are lucky we will see musk oxen, Arctic hare and seals, and maybe if we are extremely lucky even a polar bear or narwhal, although due to the relentless pursuit of the local hunters, these sightings are now very rare.





### **Days 10 & 11 At Sea**

We head out to sea enroute for Spitsbergen. As we cruise Northeast across the Greenland Sea - the main outlet of the Arctic Ocean - we will probably encounter pack ice where we will likely see seals and a variety of seabirds, including Northern Fulmar and migratory Brunnichs guillemots.

### **Days 12 & 13 Northwest coast of Spitsbergen**

We cruise northwards along the west coast of Spitsbergen stopping at intriguing places like Kongsfjorden or Magdalenefjorden. We spend time ashore walking on the lush tundra. We feel a sense of history at the 350-year-old remains of the Dutch whaling settlement at Smeerenberg (blubber town) on Amsterdamoya and at the century-old relics from Swedish explorer Andree, who set out from Danskoya in an unsuccessful attempt to fly a balloon to the North Pole.

Along Spitsbergen's North coast we will explore places such as Woodfjorden and Leifdefjorden, where from our Zodiacs we enjoy magnificent views of glaciers sweeping and tumbling into the sea. We will walk on smooth raised beach terraces to magnificent viewpoints, hike on flowering tundra where reindeer graze, & may visit trappers' huts of yesteryear - all the while remaining alert for wandering polar bears. We come face-to-face with the formidable Arctic pack ice and keep eyes peeled for walrus wallows.

### **Day 14 Longyearbyen**

During the early morning we cruise into the port of Longyearbyen, the 'capital' of Spitsbergen. Enjoy your sightseeing tour of Longyearbyen and some time at leisure before being transferred to Longyearbyen airport, your luggage will be taken directly from Polar Pioneer to the airport.



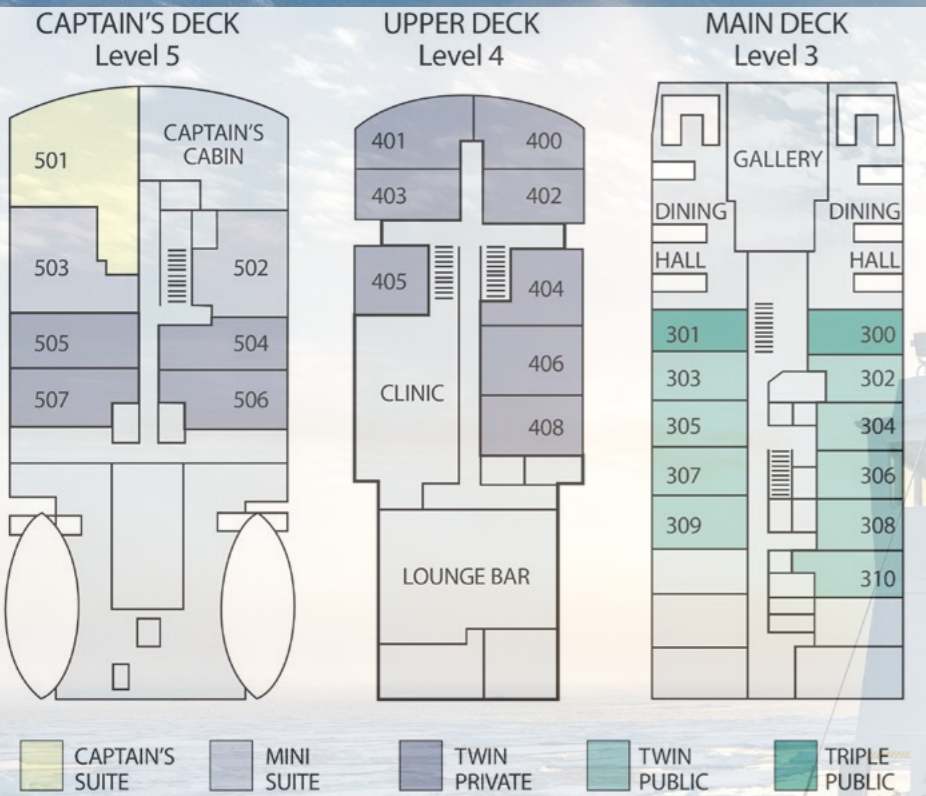




# Our Route







**The Captain's Suite**  
 Double bed in a separate room, a foldout couch that can be used as a single bed; forward and port windows; lounge and table area; fridge; TV/DVD; private bathroom, with shower, toilet and washbasin.

**Mini Suite**  
 Double bed in a separate room, foldout couch that can be used as a single bed; TV/DVD; windows; desk; and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin.

**Twin Private**  
 Two lower bunks, a desk, windows and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. NB: Cabins 402 and 403 have an upper and lower bunk and a couch.

**Twin Public**  
 Two lower bunks, desk, washbasin, ample storage and hanging space, couch and porthole. Showers and toilets are close by and are shared with other Main Deck cabins.

**Triple Public**  
 Two lower bunks and one upper bunk, desk, small washbasin, ample storage and hanging space and a porthole. Showers and toilets are close by and shared with other Main Deck cabins.

DECK	CABIN	PRICE
Main	Triple, shared facilities	AUD \$8,050
Main	Twin, shared facilities	AUD \$9,100
Upper/Captain's	Twin, private facilities	AUD \$11,200
Captain's	Mini Suite, private facilities	AUD \$12,500
Captain's	Suite, private facilities	AUD \$13,500

Prices quoted are per person in AUD, based on twin-share. Single occupancy is 1.7 times the twin share price. No single travel fees apply if you are willing to share your cabin (triple & twin cabins only). Fuel surcharge may apply in the event of significant fuel price increases. No refund for unused services.

## Expedition Inclusions

- + Economy flight from Reykjavik to Isafjordur.
- + Transfer from Isafjordur airport to ship.
- + Tour in Longyearbyen and transfer to airport.
- + Ship's accommodation. All public areas are open to all passengers.
- + All meals on board ship.
- + All shore excursions from the ship including Zodiacs.
- + Lectures, videos, slide and film shows and guide services.
- + Medical services. There is a resident doctor and well-equipped clinic on board.
- + Port taxes and port charges imposed by government authorities.

## Expedition Exclusions

- + Air transport to and from the ship not mentioned above.
- + Visa, passport and vaccination charges and airport departure taxes.
- + Hotels and meals not included in ship cruise itinerary.
- + Optional excursions not included in the ship cruise itinerary.
- + Laundry, postage, personal clothing, medical expenses, personal travel insurance and items of a personal nature such as bar charges and phone calls.
- + Emergency evacuation charges.

## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance, including medical evacuation cover, is mandatory for all Expeditions.

We always recommend the purchase of Travel Insurance in the event of illness or any other emergency which delays or otherwise prevents you from travelling on the trip.

To request a booking form, to make a reservation or for any questions please contact [antony@antonywatson.com](mailto:antony@antonywatson.com)





# Your Expedition Leader



## Antony Watson - Wilderness Photographer

Antony Watson, born in Melbourne, Australia, is a full-time professional photographer with a passion for photography and the environment. His work documents his interpretation of the dwindling vestiges of pristine wilderness and cultural diversity.

Leading Expeditions into the Polar Regions provides amazing opportunities to share these rare and amazing experiences with his fellow photographers and travellers.

Residing in Melbourne Australia with his wife and two daughters, he graduated from Photography Studies College majoring in Commercial Photography.

He is a fully accredited member of the Australian Institute of Professional Photographers (AIPP) having won awards at both the state and national level. When not running photography expeditions, he works selectively for a number of commercial clients.





**aipp** 2014

ACCREDITED  
PROFESSIONAL  
PHOTOGRAPHER

**Antony Watson**

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