

ARCTIC ADVENTURES

Expedition cruises aboard the MS Quest & MS Ocean Nova

June to September 2012



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Svalbard is a remote and spectacular archipelago of immense glaciers, narrow fjords and abundant wildlife. Let our small but comfortable sister expedition ships, the *MS Quest* and the *MS Ocean Nova*, take you on a memorable journey into the realm of the polar bear. In Spitsbergen there are twice as many polar bears and walrus as there are people. The polar bear population is estimated at over 3000 and we hope to encounter some of them during our summer voyages.

We will witness a vast geological spectacle of soaring mountains and immense glaciers. A photographer's paradise unfolds before us: black basaltic islands rise from shimmering waters punctuated with gleaming ice sculptures, and lush tundra blazes with purple saxifrage and moss campion. Within this dramatic landscape resides a wealth of wildlife: seals, walrus, whales, Arctic foxes, and our ultimate goal, polar bears. The area is also home to hundreds of thousands of breeding seabirds, including kittiwakes, murre, dovekies, puffins, and rare ivory gulls. We will take full advantage of the long daylight hours and embark on numerous Zodiac excursions to view the profuse wildlife up close.

In the beginning of the season Spitsbergen's flowers are in full bloom and the bird colonies are bustling with life. In the latter part of the season we have very good possibilities of exploring the eastern parts of the archipelago when the ice is slowly starting to lose its grip. Our expedition ships have the highest ice class and can carefully break through the pack ice, home to seals, walrus and the king of the Arctic, the polar bear.

"It is so magnificent, so remote. The light is spectacular, the wildlife amazing. One can reach much further north in Svalbard than is the case southwards in Antarctica. We travelled together with a couple of friends, one of them says repeatedly that it was the best journey of his life."

— ROGER SCOTFORD

EXPEDITION STAFF

One of the keys to a successful expedition is having knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides. The expedition teams onboard the *MS Quest* and *MS Ocean Nova* are dedicated experts who share a genuine love for the Polar regions.

A few of the guides you may meet onboard include:



MARTIN ENCKELL

Martin has led expeditions on board small ships in the Polar Regions since 1999 and is a popular leader. He has visited the geographical North Pole in the north and Antarctica in the south. It is Martin's fascination for the marine mammals which lures him back to the Arctic year after year.



ADAM RHEBORG

Adam is a serious globetrotter who has worked as expedition leader, lecturer and diving instructor in remote Polar Regions since 1998. Adam has studied biology at university and will tell you more about the animals of the Arctic.

For full biographies of all expedition staff, please refer to our website: www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Exploring by Zodiac (Oscar Westman)



POLAR BEAR ADVENTURES IN THE MIDNIGHT SUN

AN EXPEDITION CRUISE OF THE SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO ABOARD THE *MS QUEST* & *MS OCEAN NOVA*



Our goal of this expedition is to explore the eastern and least visited parts of the archipelago. We will go ashore on beaches covered by massive walrus and with some good fortune we will also encounter whales. Seabirds, such as ivory gulls, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes, will be our constant companions during the trip and we will also look out for puffins and little auks, which nest here in millions.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Oslo. Fly by scheduled flight. Transfer to a first class hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 2 Oslo to Longyearbyen. Fly by scheduled flight. Transfer to the Radisson SAS Polar Hotel or similar for an overnight stay.

Days 3 to 9 Svalbard Archipelago. Our exact itinerary for these days will depend on weather, ice conditions and the wildlife we encounter. Each day we will make landings with our rigid Zodiac craft and thanks to the midnight sun we can go ashore day and night. Here are a few of the many places we hope to visit:

Barentsburg & 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.

Svalbard's 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 Brunnich'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 we see Alkefjellet (Auk Mountain), a sheer basaltic cliff, home to some 200,000 Brunnich's guillemots.

Day 10 Longyearbyen to London. Disembark after breakfast and return to London by scheduled flight via Oslo.



Wild flowers (Adam Rheborg)



Reindeer (Mirelle De La Lez)



Arctic tern (Oscar Westerman)

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy (triple for Cat 1/F)

MS OCEAN NOVA (tour code: SCONMIDSU2):

8th to 17th June; 22nd June to 1st July; 29th June to 8th July 2012

CAT	CABIN DESCRIPTION	
Cat 1	Upper Deck Triple	£3795
Cat 2	Upper Deck Twin (bunk beds)	£4295
Cat 3	Bridge/Upper Deck Twin	£4495
Cat 4	Upper Deck Superior	£5295
Cat 3	For sole use	£5695

MS QUEST (tour code: SCQMIDSU12):

7th to 16th July 2012

CAT	CABIN DESCRIPTION	
F	Deck 3 Triple (2 lower berths/1 upper)*	£3895
E	Deck 3 Twin	£4695
D	Deck 3 Superior Twin	£4995
C	Deck 3 Double	£5395
B	Deck 3/4 Superior Double	£5995
A	Deck 4 Owner's Double	£6395
E	For sole use	£7295

* If category F cabins are only occupied by two sharing, prices per person are as per category E cabins.

Price includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Oslo and Longyearbyen on breakfast only basis, 7 nights aboard the *MS Ocean Nova/MS Quest* on full board, expedition team including knowledgeable naturalist guides and speakers, shore excursions by Zodiac, detailed log book, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not included: Travel insurance, gratuities.

NB. Itinerary is for guidance only. The exact route will depend on ice and weather conditions and wildlife sightings.



Polar bears (Adam Rheborg)



Zodiac & walrus (Ola Skinnarmo)

CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF SPITSBERGEN

AN EXPEDITION CRUISE CIRCUMNAVIGATING SPITSBERGEN ABOARD THE *MS QUEST*



During this exciting voyage, we will explore the glacier-coated fjords and beautiful bays for which the area is known. The goal of the expedition is to explore Spitsbergen's nature, fauna, cultural heritage and to visit sites where few people have set foot. We will travel through Svalbard's magnificent archipelago and hope to make a full circumnavigation of Spitsbergen. We will visit bird cliffs and walrus colonies, hike on the tundra and cruise along glacier fronts.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Oslo. Fly by scheduled flight. Transfer to a first class hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 2 Oslo to Longyearbyen. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the *MS Quest* and embark.

Days 3 to 11 Spitsbergen. Our route depends on weather, ice conditions and the wildlife we encounter. Each day we make several landings with our Zodiac craft and these are a few of the places we hope to visit:

Barentsburg & Ny Alesund: Not far from Longyearbyen is the Russian enclave Barentsburg, a fascinating coal mining settlement founded in 1932. In the scientific village of Ny Alesund, the animals completely ignore the humans. Arctic terns nest by the main street and not far from the post office, northernmost in the world, 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 Danes' Island, Amsterdam Island and Ytre Norskøya we find remnants from the bustling activity during the 17th century whaling period. Many puffins, little auks and guillemots nest in the area. Two of the most courageous attempts to reach the North Pole started on Danes' Island. Swedish balloonist Andrée made an attempt with hydrogen balloon and American journalist Wellman started out with airship. The site is still littered with remnants from these expeditions.

Svalbard's 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. 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 Brunnich'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.

North Spitsbergen and Auk Mountain: If the ice allows we may enter Hinlopen Strait. Here we see Auk Mountain, a sheer basaltic cliff, home for some 200,000 Brunnich's guillemots.

Eastern Svalbard: Venturing eastwards we skirt and possibly encounter the shifting Arctic Ocean pack ice. It is a harsh and seldom-experienced environment and one stands in awe at this majestic icescape. Chances of meeting polar bears increase as we sail along the ice floes. The island of Nordaustlandet is covered by an enormous ice cap and fascinates naturalists as well as historians.



Walrus up-close (Vera Simonsson)

Here we find a huge glacier front intersected by hundreds of melting waterfalls, an abandoned German weather station from WWII and the well-kept scientific station at Kinnvika. Even further east is White Island. In very favourable ice and weather conditions, we may land here on this ice-capped island where few people have ever set foot. Here Andrée and his men were found 33 years after their unsuccessful attempt to reach the North Pole with balloon. On Barentsøya we can see the remnants of old Pomor fishing camps, some 400 years old. Brave pioneers from the shores of Russia, the Pomors sailed here in small open boats to fish and hunt.

Southwest Svalbard: The grand fjord of Hornsund offers spectacular glaciers and a breathtaking landscape of towering mountain peaks. This is a favourite haunt for some of Svalbard's polar bears.

Day 12 Longyearbyen to London. Disembark after breakfast and return to London by scheduled flight via Oslo.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy Tour Code: SCQCIRCU12

15th to 26th July; 14th to 25th August; 24th August to 4th September 2012

CAT	CABIN DESCRIPTION	
F	Deck 3 Triple (2 lower berths/1 upper)*	£4995
E	Deck 3 Twin	£5995
D	Deck 3 Superior Twin	£6295
C	Deck 3 Double	£6695
B	Deck 3/4 Superior Double	£7195
A	Deck 4 Owner's Double	£7795
E	For sole use	£8995

* If category F cabins are only occupied by two sharing, prices per person are as per category E cabins.

Price includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Oslo on breakfast only basis, 10 nights aboard the *MS Quest* on full board, expedition team including knowledgeable naturalist guides and speakers, shore excursions by Zodiac, detailed log book, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not included: Travel insurance, gratuities to crew.

NB. Itinerary is for guidance only. The exact route will depend on ice and weather conditions and wildlife sightings.



Wild flowers (Mirelle De La Lez)



On deck (Adam Rheborg)



Arctic Fox (Mirelle De La Lez)



Exploring by Zodiac

MS QUEST & MS OCEAN NOVA



These Svalbard expeditions are operated by our good friends in Sweden, PolarQuest, who have many years of experience in leading Arctic expeditions.

Built in Denmark in 1992, the *MS Ocean Nova* and *MS Quest* are sister ships and ideal for this region. The *MS Quest* was refurbished in 2008 and the *MS Ocean Nova* in 2005. Both ice strengthened, these small expedition vessels have all the latest safety and communication equipment and their small size means that we can venture where larger ships cannot, and because of their substantial build and design they are as at home in the Arctic wilderness as they are in a tranquil Scottish loch.

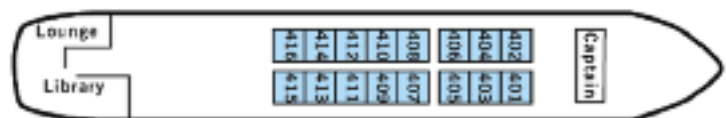
The *MS Quest* accommodates a maximum of fifty passengers and the *Ocean Nova* is slightly larger, normally accommodating 86 however for these voyages this has been limited to 73 passengers. Cabins on both vessels are attractive and comfortable with outside views and en suite facilities. All have individually controlled heating and air-conditioning and there is also a desk with chair and ample storage space. They are well designed with typical Scandinavian light woods and pleasing colours.



Sun Deck (Vera Simonsson)

MS OCEAN NOVA

Bridge deck



Upper deck



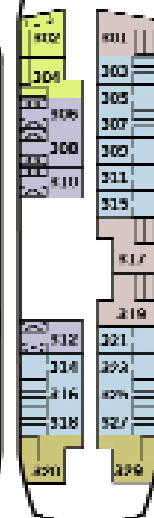
■ Cat 1 ■ Cat 2 ■ Cat 3 ■ Cat 4

MS QUEST

Deck 4



Deck 3



■ Category A
 ■ Category B
 ■ Category C
 ■ Category D
 ■ Category E
 ■ Category F



MS Quest and Zodiac (Vera Simonsson)



Ocean Nova library



MS Quest Cat D cabin



Ocean Nova Cat 3 cabin



MS Quest Cat A cabin



The Bridge



Ocean Nova restaurant

The Panorama lounge located on the top deck affords excellent views and is the main meeting place. It is here that the expedition team will provide informative and informal talks and briefings. The bar is also located in the lounge and both vessels have a small library. The attractive dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting and offers delicious meals with a mixture of table service and buffet. The Bridge is also open to passengers and here officers will provide chart and sailing information for all those interested in the vessels' navigation and operation. In addition there is a doctor onboard both vessels.

Due to the size of the vessels and the nature of the expeditions, the atmosphere onboard is extremely friendly and informal, an experience that is impossible to find on larger, more conventional cruise ships.



Front Cover: Polar bear and cub (Oscar Westman)

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These cruises visit out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and many landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. These cruises will appeal to those who enjoy the natural world.

Call 020-7752 0000

Reservations: Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Brochures: 24 hours a day/7 days a week

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