

SCOTLAND TO SPITSBERGEN

A PASSAGE FROM ABERDEEN TO THE ORKNEY ISLANDS,
SHETLAND ISLANDS, LOFOTEN ISLANDS & SPITSBERGEN
ABOARD THE GREG MORTIMER

6TH TO 20TH JUNE 2024



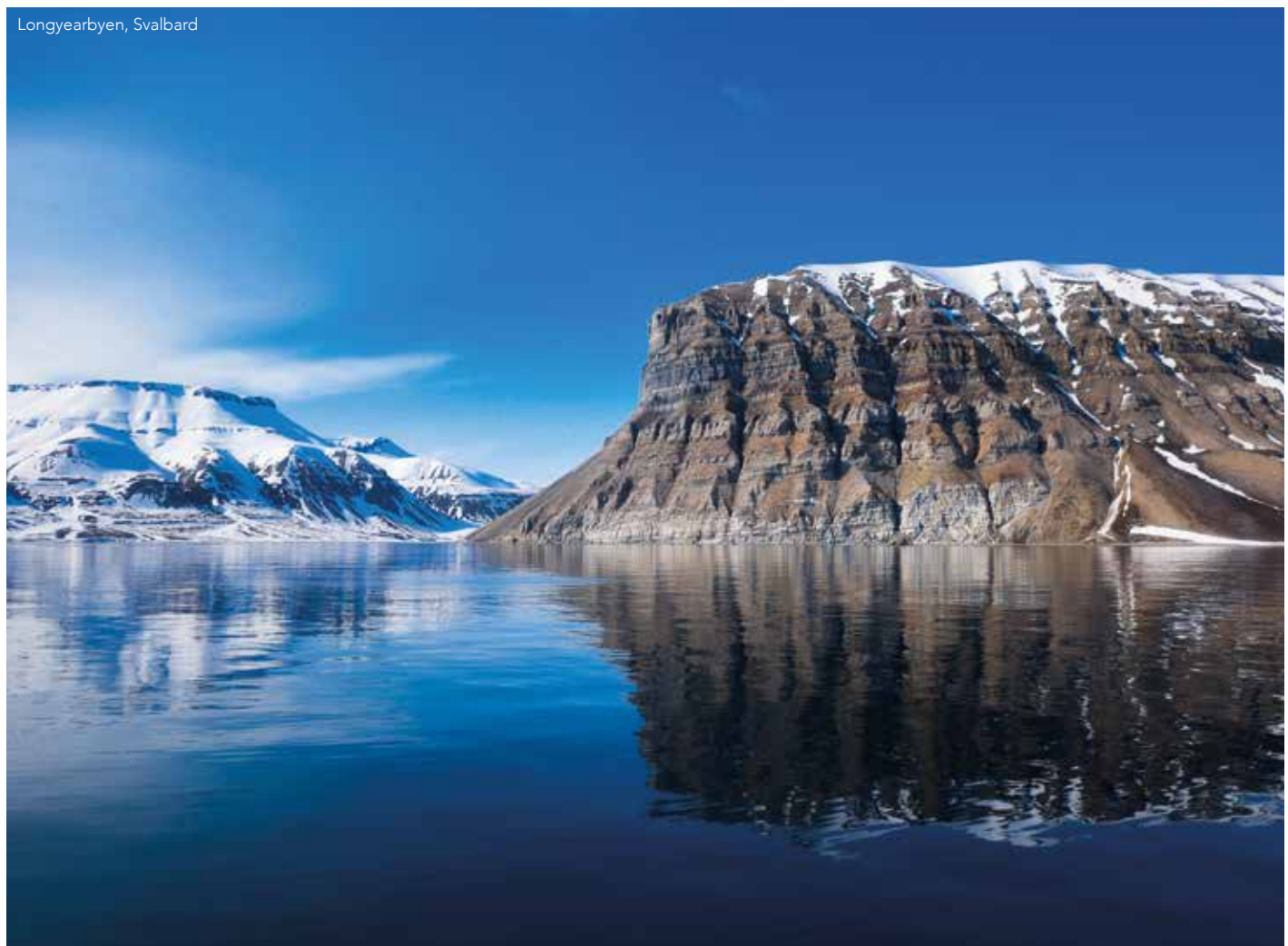
NOBLE CALEDONIA

Here is a rare opportunity to combine the remote Orkney and Shetland islands with time spent exploring the stunning Lofoten Islands in Norway and the magnificent landscapes of Spitsbergen into one exhilarating expedition. A voyage by small ship is the ideal way to get up close to nature and explore areas inaccessible to larger vessels and, aboard the 132-passenger Greg Mortimer with her expert team and fleet of Zodiacs, we will be able to land on remote islands and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs crowded with birdlife.

We set sail from Aberdeen and head north past rugged coastlines to some of Scotland's most remote and inaccessible islands where few cruise ships offer the chance to explore. Discover incredible pre-historic archaeology on the Orkney Islands and meet the islanders and view the prolific birdlife on Shetland's Fair Isle. After a day at sea sailing towards the Norwegian Coast, we spend three days exploring the Norwegian coastline, cruising the intricate maze of seldom-visited inlets and outer islands and cross the Arctic Circle as we continue to the beautiful Lofoten Islands.

Our onward passage will then take us to what will perhaps be the highlight of the journey for many, Svalbard, where you can be assured of nature in its purest form. This remote and spectacular archipelago of immense glaciers, narrow fjords and abundant wildlife is a true Arctic wilderness and home to species such as polar bears, walrus, seals and whales, all of which we have good chances of seeing during our four days of exploration.

This voyage is operated by our associates at AE Expeditions and undertaken in the spirit of discovery; the pace is unhurried and the options are many, so the day-by-day itinerary shown is a thoughtfully considered framework based on their long experience in this region. With just 130 or so fellow travellers you can enjoy the small ship experience and travel with an expert expedition team who also relish the chance to undertake such a unique journey and share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.



Polar bears, Svalbard



Shetland Islands



Arctic Fox, Svalbard

The Itinerary

In true expedition style AE Expeditions encourage exploration and adventure, offering flexibility in challenging environments in a way that puts you among the action to see and do as much as possible. The itinerary below is only a guide and subject to change due to ice and weather conditions.

Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland. Make your way to our hotel in Aberdeen and check in this afternoon. Enjoy the remainder of the day and evening at leisure to explore the city.

Day 2 Aberdeen. After a leisurely morning we transfer this afternoon to the Greg Mortimer. Be on deck as we set sail this evening before enjoying the welcome dinner on board.

Days 3 to 5 Orkney Islands & Shetland Islands. Among Orkney's archipelago of 70 windswept islands, a rich tapestry of archaeology, history and wildlife awaits. We follow the passage of time – from 5,000-year-old World Heritage Neolithic sites, past relics from wandering Vikings and reminders of World War II occupation – to present-day crofting communities. Imposing sea cliffs teem with seabirds, and clifftop paths and bleak moors beckon the keen hikers. Midway between Orkney and Shetland is Fair Isle, home to quaint croft houses and famous for its knitwear and historical

shipwrecks. The 70 or so islanders mostly live in traditional crofts on the more fertile low-lying southern part of the island. A bird watcher's paradise, Fair Isle lies on the intersection of major bird flight paths from Scandinavia, Iceland and the Faroes. It attracts common species and also eastern rarities such as the lanceolated warbler. In summer, the cliffs teem with breeding fulmars, kittiwakes, guillemots, gannets, shags and puffins. Fair Isle is an excellent place to view seabirds at close range – especially puffins. The island also has more than 250 species of flowering plants, including rare orchids, alpine and wetland species and common wildflowers. We will be welcomed by the hospitable villagers, and may take a hike or visit the museum. The Shetland Islands lie almost 160 kilometres north of the Scottish mainland, at a similar latitude to the southern tip of Greenland, or Bergen in Norway. Kept relatively warm by the Gulf Stream, Shetland's 100 islands experience almost 24 hours of daylight in summer. They abound with nature reserves and archaeological sites and offer a taste of traditional island life. We plan to visit some of Shetland's best preserved and most complex archaeological sites and brochs – fortified Iron Age towers.

Day 6 At Sea. As we sail towards the Norwegian coastline, the bridge or the outer decks offer an excellent and warm vantage point for birdwatching. Our historian and naturalists will delight us with their informative talks.



Wild Reindeer Family, Svalbard



Humpback Whale



Days 7 to 10 Norwegian Coast. We spend three days exploring the superb Norwegian coastline, cruising the intricate maze of seldom-visited inlets and outer islands. The cod-fishing island of Sør Gjøeslingan welcomes us with its delightful wooden houses and cheerful inhabitants. Here, we search for nesting kittiwakes and reclusive sea otters. Delight in the hunt for fabled trolls, passing through Torghatten – meaning ‘mountain with a hole’ – said to have been caused by a troll’s arrow. Crossing the Arctic Circle, we continue to the stunning Lofoten – meaning puma’s foot – Islands. This is a land scoured by ice and legend, the towering crags with their sharp edges, standing in silent protection of the villages below. As we travel north, the days are noticeably longer and we search for blue whales, humpbacks, orca, minke whales, pilot whales and dolphins in the deep, squid-rich ocean trenches off Andenes.

Days 11 to 14 Bear Island & Svalbard. We approach Spitsbergen at its most southerly point, South Cape or Sørkapp, and explore the coastline, entering a different world – that of the polar desert. Enormous peaks and deeply gouged fjords make a visit to Hornsund a powerful experience. As Hornsund is the southernmost fjord in Svalbard, we keep a lookout for polar bears, and Zodiac-cruise along glacial fronts that are home to bearded and ring seals, kittiwakes and guillemots. Here in Svalbard, we continue our exploration into human history dating back 400 years, encompassing trapping and hunting, whaling and mining. If the skies are clear we may catch a glimpse of the dramatic Hornsundtind, peaking at 1,430 metres (4,695 feet). Dramatic folds characterise the geological landscape of Bellsund and here we will enjoy magnificent vistas, steep bird cliffs and lush vegetation, always an open invitation to Arctic fox and polar bears. Little auks, guillemots, northern fulmar and pink-footed geese make this their breeding home. Reindeer graze the slopes peacefully and as the fjord branches, there are numerous places to explore. Polar bears pass through the area on their way to the west coast, and if we are lucky, we may encounter the elusive and alluring white beluga whale.

Day 15 Longyearbyen to London. Disembark after breakfast in the town of Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Norwegian territory of Svalbard. We will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London via Oslo.



PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Suite Category	Deck	Price
Aurora Stateroom Triple with porthole windows	3	N/A
Aurora Stateroom Twin with porthole windows	3	£8595
Balcony Stateroom C	4 & 6	£9395
Balcony Stateroom B	4 & 6	£9895
Balcony Stateroom A	4 & 6	£10595
Balcony Stateroom Superior	4 & 6	N/A
Junior Suite	7	N/A
Captain's Suite	4	N/A
Aurora Stateroom Twin for sole use	3	£12895

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from Longyearbyen to London • Overnight hotel accommodation in Aberdeen with breakfast • 13 nights aboard the Greg Mortimer on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with dinner on board • Expedition team • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Shore excursions • Polar expedition jacket • Use of Muck (waterproof) boots on board • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, lunch on days 1 & 2, dinner on day 1.

GREG MORTIMER



Aurora Stateroom



Restaurant



Stateroom A with Balcony

For our voyage aboard the expedition vessel, the Greg Mortimer we are delighted to be working with our associates at AE Expeditions (part of Aurora Expeditions) who have provided us with an allocation of cabins. Launched in 2019, the Greg Mortimer was designed to be able to undertake expeditions to the most remote places on earth. Accommodating just 132 passengers, the vessel's design which features a streamlined bow enables her to cross oceans more comfortably and efficiently. The Greg Mortimer's inviting and spacious public areas include a lecture lounge, multiple observation areas, and a single sitting restaurant whilst the majority of the 79 cabins on board benefit from a balcony. For explorations ashore, the vessel features a fleet of 15 Zodiacs which are boarded via four dedicated sea-level platforms.

Your Cabin

Cabins on board are spacious and well designed with a simple, neutral colour palette taking inspiration from nature in the polar regions. The Aurora Twin Staterooms measure between 16 and 23 square metres and the Balcony Staterooms measure between 25 and 28 square metres (inclusive of balcony). The Superior Balcony Staterooms and Junior Suite measure approximately 40 square metres whilst the Captain's Suite provides 45 square metres of space. All cabins feature private en-suite bathrooms, ample storage, safe, televisions, desk, mini-bar and individually controlled temperature thermostat. The comfortable beds in each cabin can be configured as a king size bed or twin beds. You will find a selection of toiletries (shampoo, body wash and body lotion) in the bathroom and bathrobes and powerful hairdryers are also provided in your cabin. Slippers and refillable water bottles are also available and can be requested from reception.



Observation Deck



Bar



Library



Lecture Lounge

Your Space

The spacious public areas on board the Greg Mortimer foster the warm camaraderie and convivial atmosphere on board. The Observation Lounge and Bar and the Lecture Theatre and Lounge are refined yet inviting places to gather with floor-to-ceiling windows offering stunning views and friendly bar staff. The Library also benefits from floor-to-ceiling windows and is a peaceful sanctuary where you can find non-fiction books to read up on the day's destinations and wildlife or play board games with fellow travellers. Wildlife guides, books and binoculars can also be found on the observation lounge on Deck 7. The comfortable open seating dining area is where you will share tales of the day and be fuelled with delicious meals cooked by the onboard chefs. There is no shortage of spaces to take in the majesty of the incredible world outside with multiple open decks with expansive views in addition to unique hydraulic viewing platforms, which fold out for unobstructed views of passing marine life and seabirds (platforms usage subject to weather and itinerary). When you are not busy exploring ashore, there is a gym and sauna along with two Jacuzzis on the top outside deck to relax in and after a Zodiac landing, you can make use of the mudroom where you will have access to a locker to hang your gear up to dry, and store your boots between excursions. The ship also features a fully stocked medical clinic designed for use in remote areas and onboard Wi-Fi Internet packages are available (charges may apply).

Your Dining

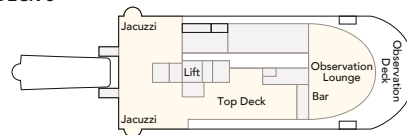
Whatever adventures the day holds, you will be fuelled-up with hearty meals and delicious afternoon teas prepared by the onboard chefs. Meals are the ideal time to soak up the expedition camaraderie in the open seating dining area. Share stories with your fellow travellers and ask the expedition team questions that may have come up during the day. Tea, coffee and snacks are available 24 hours a day, and the onboard chefs offer different menu options and courses for each meal. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks which are included with lunch and dinner on board.

Your Life On Board

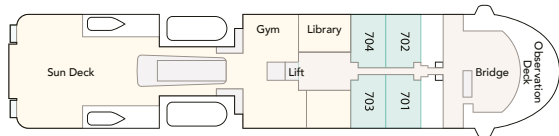
The atmosphere on board is relaxed and informal and focused on the marvellous scenery and wildlife you will be experiencing. Highly qualified, knowledgeable experts will accompany you throughout and you can join members of the expedition team for insightful talks and presentations in the comfort of the Lecture Theatre. Whilst relaxing on board you can unwind in the library, sauna or Jacuzzi or find a quiet place to enjoy a beverage with newfound friends. Watch your adventure unfold from the lounge or head outside to one of the deck spaces to soak up the glorious landscape from every angle, take uninterrupted photos and spot for wildlife with members of the expedition team. The Zodiac loading platforms and activities platform allow for faster disembarkation from the ship – to get out on your adventure quicker, whether by Zodiac or by kayak. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and after a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and comfortable ship.

GREG MORTIMER DECK PLAN

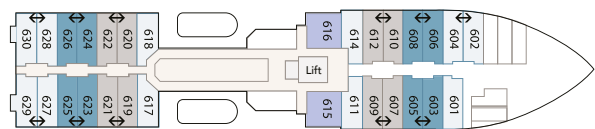
DECK 8



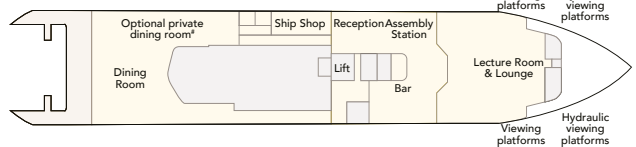
DECK 7



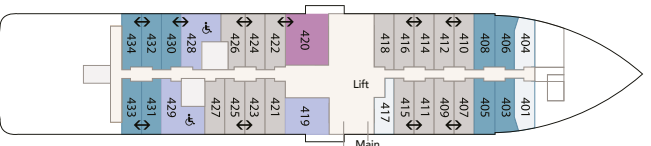
DECK 6



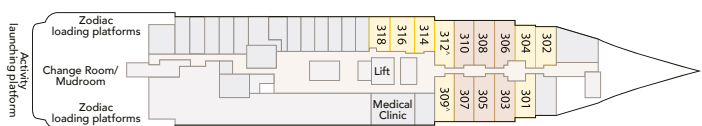
DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



♿ Disability accessible staterooms ↔ Connecting staterooms and suites ^ Expedition Team staterooms on selected voyages
 * Open at the discretion of the Hotel Manager on selected voyages

- AURORA STATEROOM TRIPLE
- AURORA STATEROOM TWIN
- BALCONY STATEROOM - C
- BALCONY STATEROOM - B
- BALCONY STATEROOM - A
- BALCONY STATEROOM SUPERIOR
- JUNIOR SUITE
- CAPTAIN'S SUITE

Deck plan is subject to change



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk
 www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Polar bear, Svalbard Archipelago.