

# THE ULTIMATE ARCTIC EXPEDITION

27 JUNE - 9 JULY 2026



FROM  
£9,480  
PER PERSON

Expedition Leaders: Alastair Fothergill and Oskar Strøm  
Tour Manager: Louisa Thompson

  
The Ultimate  
TRAVEL COMPANY

We are extremely excited to announce that Alastair Fothergill will be leading a truly unique expedition through the Arctic. With the assistance of his friend and work colleague, Oskar Strøm, you will be led by a team of carefully selected crew, who are highly professional and enthusiastic, giving excellent and captivating insight on the Arctic's flora and fauna, as well as on the surrounding environment.

Your journey begins with two nights in a hotel in Longyearbyen, followed by ten nights on board the very comfortable M/S Quest. With a maximum of 42 guests, this will be a very intimate and exclusive trip.

Summer arrives at the end of June. The midnight sun reigns supreme and purple saxifrage decorates the slopes. As the ice around the islands thaws, it provides excellent opportunities to explore the archipelago's seldom-visited eastern parts. As we navigate the magnificent Arctic wilderness of Svalbard, we will cruise along glittering glaciers and go ashore to take in the magnificent scenery. We will also keep an eye out for the iconic wildlife, including walrus, seals, and polar bears.





## 13-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 27 JUNE 2026

### 27 June London / Oslo / Longyearbyen

Suggested flights (not included in the cost of the tour). Fly from London Heathrow on Scandinavian Airlines flight SK804 at 10.35, arriving Oslo at 13.45. Connect to Scandinavian Airlines flight SK4496 departing Oslo at 16.00, arriving Longyearbyen at 18.55.

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your accommodation. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel. Stay two nights at The Funken Lodge.

### 28 June Longyearbyen

Breakfast at the hotel. A day to explore Longyearbyen. There will be optional activities on offer, such as dog sledding, to visiting the museum etc.

### 29 June Longyearbyen / Svalbard

Board the expedition ship and sail out through the spectacular Isfjorden – the Arctic expedition has begun! We are now in a part of the world where we are completely dependent on the ice and weather conditions. Our exact itinerary will depend on these factors and on the wildlife we encounter. Our aim is to head out on Zodiac cruises every day and to go ashore when the opportunity arises. Here are some examples of places we may visit:

### 29 June - 9 July Expedition Cruising

**Northwest Spitsbergen:** The scientific village of Ny-Ålesund is in Kongsfjorden. It was from here that Amundsen and Nobile started their heroic expeditions to the North Pole. Two other courageous attempts to reach the North Pole started on the island of Danskøya. The Swedish explorer Andrée made an attempt with a hydrogen balloon, and the American journalist Wellman started with an airship. Interesting remnants of these expeditions can still be seen here.

**Magnificent fjords:** Svalbard offers visitors countless spectacular fjords. Liefdefjorden, meaning “The fjord of love”, is lined with snow-capped mountain peaks and here we hope to cruise along the face of the spectacular Monaco Glacier. Many common eiders and pink-footed geese nest in the area. In Krossfjorden we revel in the beautifully sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier and are greeted by the many kittiwakes and Brünnich’s guillemots that nest on the nearby cliffs. Raudfjorden is an area of immense natural beauty – dominated by magnificent glaciers. It is also a favourite haunt of seals and the bird cliffs are abuzz with activity.

### Hinlopen Strait and Alkefjellet:

Ice conditions permitting, we enter the Hinlopen Strait. Here we find Alkefjellet, an impressive basalt cliff that is home to an estimated 200,000 Brünnich’s guillemots. We may also continue into the beautiful bay of Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet.

**Eastern Svalbard:** The island of Nordaustlandet is covered by a huge ice cap and has fascinated naturalists and historians alike. Here the giant glacier Bråsvellbreen stretches for 180 kilometres! The 15-20-metre-high ice edge is punctuated by hundreds of waterfalls. Barentsøya and Edgeøya offer magnificent scenery and vast tundra. There is a good chance of seeing walrus, arctic fox, and Svalbard reindeer here.





**Southwest Spitsbergen:** The grand fjords of Hornsund offer spectacular glaciers and a breathtaking landscape of towering mountain peaks, often reaching above the clouds. On a clear day you can see the summit of the highest mountain, Hornsundtind, at 1,431 metres. Hornsund is a favourite haunt of some of Svalbard's polar bears, and bearded seals can often be seen resting on the fjord ice.

**9 July Longyearbyen / Oslo / London**

Early in the morning, we disembark from our expedition ship, before being transferred to the airport. Suggested flights (not included in the cost of the tour) fly from Longyearbyen on Scandinavian Airlines flight SK4491 at 10.45, arriving Oslo at 13.40. Connect to

Scandinavian Airlines flight SK809 departing Oslo at 15.05, arriving London Heathrow at 16.25.

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

**TOUR PRICES PER PERSON**

TRIPLE CABIN	£9,480
	<i>For 3 Sharing</i>
TWIN CABIN	£10,980
TWIN CABIN PLUS	£11,490
DOUBLE CABIN	£11,860
DOUBLE CABIN SUPERIOR	£12,430
OWNER'S CABIN	£13,180
TWIN CABIN FOR SINGLE USE	£14,980

*Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.*

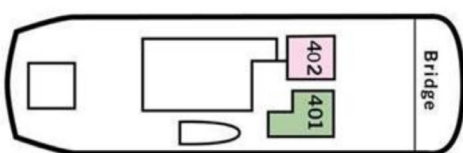
**PRICE INCLUDES**

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Full board on board the ship, including coffee and tea, and juice with breakfast
- 1 welcome dinner in Longyearbyen with alcohol
- All entrance fees, visits, and excursions as per the itinerary
- All transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- Information briefings and lectures by the expedition team
- A parka will be provided for the duration of your voyage
- Port fees, taxes, and tariffs
- Shore landings by zodiac
- The services of your tour leader throughout

**PRICE EXCLUDES**

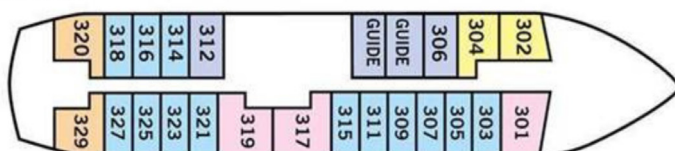
- International flights (quoted separately)
- Boots - these can be hired before the trip in Longyearbyen
- Additional options
- Alcoholic drinks and additional drinks
- Extra excursions not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Tips for the ship crew (approx. \$14 per person per day)
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Visa fees
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 11.09.24

**Deck 4**



owner's cabin (large double bed)
double cabin Superior (large double bed)
double cabin (double bed)
win cabin Plus
win cabin (two separate beds)
triple cabin (bunk beds)
win cabin for single use

**Deck 3**





M/S Quest



## M/S QUEST FACT SHEET

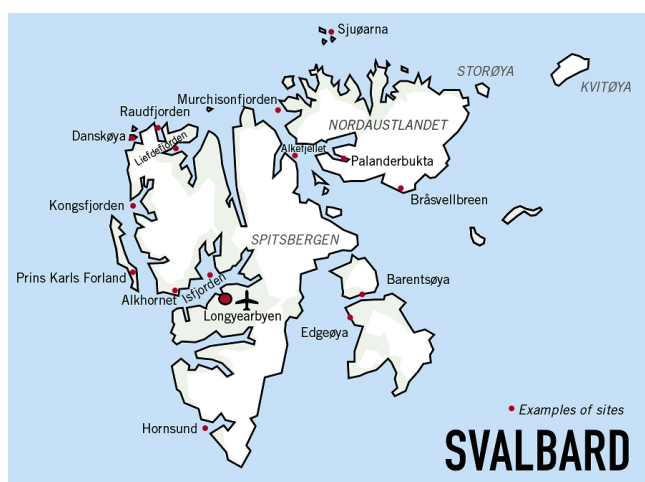
The ship was built in Denmark in 1992 to serve as a ferry along the west coast of Greenland. In 2004-2005, it was completely refurbished into a comfortable expedition ship, and in 2018, the passenger areas underwent further renovation.

### Accommodation

M/S Quest can accommodate 50 passengers, with all 24 cabins being outside cabins equipped with private facilities. The triple cabins feature upper and lower berths, while all other cabins have either two lower berths or a double bed. Each cabin includes a desk with a chair and a cupboard for storage. The superior cabins are spacious, featuring armchairs and a TV. The owner's cabin offers a double bed, two large picture windows, a separate seating area, and a TV.

### Facilities

In the dining room, you enjoy delicious meals between landings, while the panorama lounge offers breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. This lounge serves as the venue for entertaining talks about the area's flora, fauna, and history. It also features a bar and a small library. The ship boasts spacious observation decks for you to enjoy the stunning vistas. The bridge welcomes you around the clock, and there is always something to see or search for. You are welcomed by an international crew, and the atmosphere on board is relaxed and very friendly. There are five Zodiacs and five knowledgeable polar guides on M/S Quest.





# YOUR EXPEDITION LEADERS

## ALASTAIR FOTHERGILL



Alastair Fothergill joined the BBC Natural History Unit in 1983 and worked on a wide range of the department's programmes, including the BAFTA award winning *The Really Wild Show*, *Wildlife on One*, *The Natural World* and the innovative *Reefwatch* before working on the BBC1 series *The Trials of Life* with Sir David Attenborough. From here he went on to produce *Life in the Freezer*, *The Blue Planet*, *Planet Earth* and *Frozen Planet* before leaving the BBC in 2012 to set up his own production company Silverback Films. In 2015, Silverback Films completed a new landmark series for BBC 1, *The Hunt* before producing the first landmark natural history original series for Netflix, *Our Planet*. Alastair is also fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, who awarded him their gold medal in 2012, and currently resides in Bristol with his wife Melinda, two sons and three Jack Russells.

## OSKAR STRØM



Oskar has lived in Svalbard for over twenty years, and he is among most experienced of all polar guides. He has a particular passion and experience with polar bears. His knowledge of every corner of Svalbard and its ever-changing ice conditions will be invaluable on this adventure. Oskar has managed logistics for a range of prestigious wildlife film projects including *The Frozen Planet* for the BBC and Disney Nature Polar Bear. He enjoys a good whiskey and is always extremely good company.

## LOUISA THOMPSON



Louisa joined Ultimate Travel in 2016, organising cultural and wildlife trips worldwide. She now sells tailor made trips, focusing mainly in Australasia and the Middle East. She's led tours in Nepal, Sri Lanka, eastern and southern India, and accompanied Alastair Fothergill in Antarctica in 2024. She loves everything to do with the outdoors, and is always planning unique and off the beaten track trips to whacky destinations. She has a passion for photography, and is always up for an adventure.



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