

THE ARCTIC - POLAR NIGHTS: FROM NORTH CAPE TO SPITSBERGEN | LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT



INTRODUCTION

Experience the magic of the Arctic on a luxurious voyage aboard Le Commandant Charcot, navigating from Norway's rugged coastlines to the icy realms of Spitsbergen.


As the polar night envelops the region, you'll be treated to the awe-inspiring Northern Lights and the serene beauty of fjords and glaciers. Engage with the Sami community in Lapland, exploring their rich cultural heritage. This adventure promises unique encounters with Arctic wildlife, majestic fjords, and serene glaciers, offering an unforgettable experience in one of the world's most remote and beautiful regions.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Fly from Paris to Tromso & Embarkation

A charter flight will take you from Paris to Tromso, where you will then embark from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and departure at around 6:00 pm. In the north of the Arctic circle you'll discover Tromsø, a secluded town located in the county of Troms. Norwegians call it the "Paris of the north". You'll soon see why when you discover its extensive neoclassical architectural heritage. A stunning example is the Arctic cathedral, a major monument whose stylistic purity echoes the outline of the mountains surrounding the town.

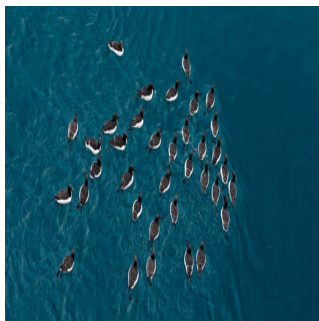


TRIP CODE
ACPOCPNS
DEPARTURE
14/10/2026
DURATION
11 Days
LOCATIONS
Svalbard & Arctic Norway


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DAY 2: At Sea

Spend exceptional moments sailing aboard Le Commandant Charcot, the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel and the first PC2-class polar cruise ship capable of sailing into the very heart of the ice, on seas and oceans which the frozen conditions render inaccessible to ordinary ships. Le Commandant Charcot is fitted with oceanographic and scientific equipment selected by a committee of experts. Take advantage of the on-board lectures and opportunities for discussion with these specialists to learn more about the poles. Participate in furthering scientific research with PONANT and let us discover together what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.



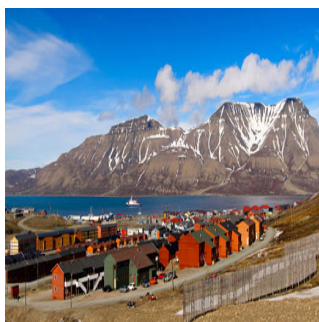
DAY 3: South-West region of Spitsbergen

Set sail for southwest Spitsbergen, immerse yourself in this environment unlike any other and explore its unexpected riches. In this natural sanctuary, the polar light combines with the changing weather of the Arctic, a big blue sky, the horizon scattered with clouds, the enveloping mist erasing the border between the land and the sea. Follow in the footsteps of the first explorers and admire the majestic fjords and glaciers sculpting the breathtaking landscapes, their icy waters shimmering beneath the midnight sun. The fjords, veritable cathedrals of ice, reveal their millennial secrets, while the glaciers, like sleeping giants, move slowly towards the sea, setting free sparkling icebergs. On the water, you might spot belugas and rorquals, while on the shores, seals and Arctic foxes add a touch of mystery to this living tableau, where the steep cliffs become breeding grounds for thousands of seabirds, like guillemots. Southwest Spitsbergen is an ode to nature in its rawest and purest form.



DAY 4: Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen

Longyearbyen is the capital of the Norwegian Svalbard archipelago, located on Svalbard's main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.



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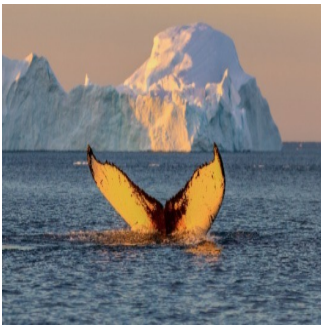
DAY 5: Ny-Alsund, Spitsbergen

During your cruise, discover Ny-Ålesund, a former mining town that has been transformed into a scientific base. Founded in 1916, this small town was the departure point for many Arctic expeditions, including those of the famous explorer Roald Amundsen. Don't miss a visit to the museum and its famous post office, considered to be the most northerly in the world!



DAY 6: At Sea

Enjoy the absolutely unique experience of sailing to the heart of the ice floe, this vast expanse of virgin, immaculate ice. The landscapes are constantly changing, shifting from a smooth, flat wilderness to a chaos of ice, then to channels of open water. Your ship will sail along these naturally open channels and through the areas where the frozen layer is thinnest, offering you the chance to experience magic maritime moments in the midst of drifting sea ice. It will also often be an opportunity to see a particular kind of fauna, totally dependent on the ice floe.



DAY 7: North-West region of Spitsbergen

A kingdom of contrasts and natural marvels dotted with islands and peninsulas, northwest Spitsbergen fascinates with its preserved beauty. On these pristine lands, infinity unveils itself, treating the eyes to beauty sculpted by nature and enhanced by the changing light. The fjords bathed by icy waters, the jagged mountains and the imposing glaciers stand majestically before you, like monumental sculptures. In these lands, where souls are filled with deep serenity, only the murmur of broken ice, bearing mysteries and legends, disturbs the calmness. Aboard our Zodiacs and in the company of naturalist-guides, get as close as possible to this unique fauna and discover this centre for scientific expedition departures. In the distance, majestic whales glide silently through the glacial waters, whereas seals, walrus and Arctic foxes add a playful touch of life. As Svalbard reindeer wander the vast expanses, Arctic terns liven up the polar sky with their gracious flight and polar bears, which you may be lucky enough to see, patrol magnificently along the icy shores.



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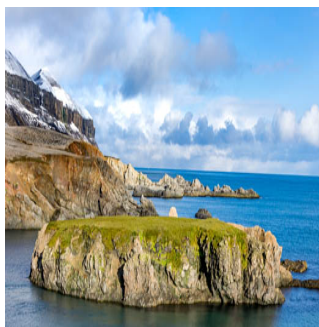
DAY 8: South-West region of Spitsbergen

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DAY 9: Sail along Bjornoya (Bear Island)

Halfway between Norway and Spitsbergen, you will sail not far from the coastlines of Bjørnøya, the southernmost island of Svalbard. From your ship, observe this isolated piece of land discovered in 1596 by the Dutch navigator Willem Barents, then looking for the Northwest Passage. Following a tough fight between a polar bear and the members of the expedition, he dubbed the place Bear Island. Regularly covered by a thick layer of fog, Bjørnøya shelters a meteorological station built in 1923, which is still in operation. Declared a nature reserve in 2002, the island is above all home to an enormous colony of sea birds: skuas, guillemots, puffins, Tridactyl gulls, petrels, gulls and little auks all coexist here.



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DAY 10: Honningsvåg

If you feel like you have arrived at the end of the world in Honningsvåg, it is because this is the case. Halfway between Oslo and the North Pole, it competes with Hammerfest for the status of “the northernmost town in Continental Europe”. Colourful houses light up this charming and typically Norwegian fishing port nestled in the hollows of the region’s mountainous terrain. Travellers come to stay in the village to go to the North Cape. At the end of the road, you will see the globe that indicates that you are at the very end of Europe. At this point, only the Svalbard archipelago separates you from the North Pole. There is sea as far as the eye can see. The Northern Lights, the view of the immense cliff plunging into the sea, the thousands of puffins, gannets and cormorants that spin around you: everything here is grandiose.



DAY 11: Disembarkation in Tromso

Arrive early in Tromso and disembark around 8am before to be transferred to the airport for your flight to Paris. *Flights included in the programme are as of today, operated in economy class, on a European airline.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Cabin on board ship

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Inclusions	INCLUSIONS Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Commandant Charcot Return Economy Flights Paris/Tromso on Embarkation Day/ Disembarkation Day Group transfer from airport to the pier for embarkation Group transfer from pier to the airport upon disembarkation Meet & greet at the airport in Tromso by our local English-speaking representative. All meals whilst on board including snacks Open Bar (excluding premium brands) Room Service & Mini Bar (excluding Champagne) All scheduled landings and excursions, conditions permitting Guiding and lectures by expedition team Complimentary Polar expedition jacket (yours to keep) Free use of rubber boots for shore excursions All port taxes Comprehensive pre and post voyage informational material Free WIFI
	EXCLUSIONS Airfares other than specified Pre and post land arrangements and accommodation Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel Insurance Personal expenses such as laundry Gratuities for the crew (recommend US\$15 per person per day) Optional Activities whilst on-board
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. A supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Return economy flights from Paris to Tromso is included in cruise cost. We highly recommend to arrange at least one night in Paris prior to departure and one night post tour. Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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