

New — Ice Bear Explorer

CRUISING | 11 DAYS • GROUP

The Arctic cruise is a celebration of wildlife—reindeer, walrus, seals, and flocks abound. But we seek one beautiful mammal in particular: a majestic, marine animal that can swim for days on end, of black skin and translucent fur that appears white only as a reflection of its icy wonderland: the polar bear. Spending time admiring and photographing the much-loved (and seriously endangered) bear in its natural habitat is the prize of a lifetime.

An ice-class ship carries us north of mainland Norway to the distant Svalbard archipelago, where we journey to the base of spectacular midwater glaciers, glide by kayak and Zodiac among towering icebergs and deep fjords, and watch for those elusive ice bears. Our expedition guides wore us with fascinating tidbits about the surprising flora and fauna of the High Arctic, putting our sightings

Isolation is the worst possible connector.

MICHELLE DE UKAMUNDO

into perspective. They may even adjust our schedule so we can linger longer when something especially inspiring appears.

Before and after the cruise, to layer our explorations with cultural context, we visit museums and galleries, learning about Norway and to explore the Arctic, and contemporary local artists. We also get a taste of Arctic waters in the town of Longyearbyen, where we make friends with sled dog huskies and take in the local architecture, like the lighthouse, the traditional tent of the native Sami people.

APR. 24-142, APR. 30-139, APR. 05-146, APR. 23-143 | [View Itinerary](#)

Only 1 winter in Oslo • 2 Glacier Cruise • 1 to Longyearbyen, tourist site, and onward • 4 to Svalbard archipelago wildlife cruise • 1 to Stockholm, depart Longyearbyen return to Oslo • 1 to home

Below: Leaning polar bear, Svalbard, Norway. Inset: Inland and hugged by some four inches of adipose tissue, these mammals are able to roam far days—something they may have to do more as their icy habitat shrinks.

The Arctic and Antarctica

PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE



PHOTO: MICHAEL GOODMAN

Antarctica Adventures

CRUISING | 11-14 DAYS • GROUP

Ready to go to astounding places, we board a small U.S.- and surprisingly comfortable expeditionary vessel in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Onboard naturalists welcome us, ready to lecture, hobnob, and help identify the local wildlife.

Leaving Ushuaia, we head south into the Drake Passage toward numerous Cape Horn, circumventing pack ice and epic bergs—a floating, and then even

If you have less time or a preference for staying in the Drake Passage to relax and about our Antarctica. Please contact us.

more intimate, version of the Alps, Caucasus, Himalayas, and beyond, peak of ocean, and flocks of seabirds bring the sea and sky to life.

Taking advantage of the long days at the height of the austral summer, we wade in and out of each frozen ice and ice-mountain passages and islands in Paradise Bay, Avon Island, King George Island (stopping with glaciers descending from its ice cap), the British research base at Port Lockroy (under 6000 feet "thick, crisp, precipitous, unmelting" Mount W. Bland), the drifting Iceberg Channel (one sailor reports being "up against the sea cliff and having 100 meters of water beneath our bows"), and the volcanic caldera of Deception Island (described in *Sailing Directions for Antarctica* as "one of the most remarkable crater islands in the world," complete with steaming fumaroles and sulfur springs). We'll spend as much time as possible on

about: Explorer (2020) board in Ushuaia, Argentine Peninsula. Below: Emperor penguin family.



PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE

the peninsula and the spectacular South Shetlands, Zodiaking ashore to hike, study, and photograph the tundra wildlife.

Our longer voyages include visits to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, a breath-stopping, 3500-foot rock mound thrust up from the frigid depths, populated by enormous colonies of penguins and seals. "Standing in the midst of a vast king penguin colony composed of a quarter of a million nesting pairs," says our Antarctica advocate Kim Anderson, "is a fantastic and very humbling experience."

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For even the best navigator, the medina is Fes' greatest riddle.

A melodious mix of colors, sounds, and smells, the medina reinvents itself every day: Arabic and French sang through the city's arches and alleyways.

Men clothe clothing in plastic buckets overflowing with saffron and indigo dyes, turning the cracks between cobbles into tinted streams. Shops bulge dirt to rafters with handmade nougat candy, gold jewelry, spices, silk, and pointy babouche slippers sold by hawthorn-skinned troubadours rolling and selling their histories and heritage.

Even in its most static state, Fes thrums, and the only way to grasp it is to let go and get lost between the stone walls that have witnessed a couple millennia of history, always trusting that the path will lead to somewhere.

—Kimberley Lovato, from "Fes"
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