

# Spitsbergen Odyssey (Greg Mortimer)



**ARCTIC FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE**  
**DEPARTING 2 JULY 2020**

## **SPITSBERGEN ODYSSEY**

Reindeers and polar bears, wildflower walks across sweeping tundra, trapper camps and historic sites. On foot and by Zodiac, visit abandoned whaling settlements, search for walrus, Arctic fox and reindeer and observe in millions of migratory birds, including little auks, guillemots and puffin.

## **"GREG MORTIMER"**

Proudly named after Aurora's adventurous co-founder, Greg Mortimer, this 104-metre ship, built in 2018, is Aurora Expedition's very first, purpose-built expedition vessel. Capable of negotiating the strongest winds and waves, the Greg Mortimer is built to world-class polar standards – designed in close consultation with expedition specialists, taking advantage of Aurora's more than 25 years of experience.

The Greg Mortimer redefines expedition cruising for the future, with just 120 passengers on board in the polar regions. Not only is the ship bigger to contend with adverse weather conditions, its added creature comforts make for a more enjoyable journey out on the open ocean.

## **FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE**

We have arranged for our next expedition Family Law conference to be on Greg Mortimer, with a departure date of 2 July 2020.

Designed for experienced Family Law practitioners and allied professionals, combining professional development with the opportunity to network and socialise.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Enjoy a guided tour of colourful Spitsbergen's capital Longyearbyen. Late afternoon sees us warmly welcomed on board.

### Days 2 to 3 – Magdalenefjorden

Wake up to spectacular alpine peaks and glacier valleys of Spitsbergen's rugged west coast. In Magdalenefjorden we Zodiac cruise a safe distance from the aqua-blue ice cliffs of 14th July Glacier or Waggonway Glacier, and take long walks among summer flowers, alert for reindeer and Arctic fox. Thanks to the nutrient-rich Gulf Stream and relatively mild temperatures, Atlantic puffins and guillemots fill the cliffs. We look for bearded seals, with their precious curling whiskers. We may visit the remains of a 350-year old Dutch whaling settlement on Amsterdam Island and learn of an ill-fated ballooning attempt over the North Pole.

### Days 4 to 6 – Møffen Island & Woodfjorden

Rounding Spitsbergen's northwest coast, we enter the Arctic Ocean and the world of pack ice. Ghostly beluga whales rise up in open leads and polar bears stalk ringed, bearded and harp seals. Offshore, walrus feed on clams or haul out on beaches, especially on Møffen Island, a walrus sanctuary. We visit trapper huts and stay alert for reindeer and Arctic fox. Delightful walks reveal delicious berries and some of the tundra's 164 exquisite flowering plants including purple saxifrage, yellow spider plants and Svalbard poppies. If ice conditions allow, we attempt to cross latitude 80° north before turning south to Woodfjorden.

### **Days 7 to 8 – Hinlopen Strait, Barentsøya and Edgeøya Islands**

We attempt to pass through narrow Hinlopen Strait, a channel flanked by austere, cream-coloured slopes rich in fossils between Spitsbergen and ice-capped Nordaustlandet. This polar desert is a landscape eroded by severe frost. Even in summer, pack ice could bar our way, but there is much to strive for. We Zodiac cruise beneath Alkefjellet, sheer basalt cliffs rising at more than 250 metres – literally buzzing with some 200,000 nests of Brunnich's guillemots. During shore excursions, we seek eider ducks, Arctic foxes and the elusive Svalbard ptarmigan. As we pass Barentsøya and Edgeøya islands, we cross polar bear migration routes.

### **Days 9 to 10 – Hornsund & Bellsund Fjords**

This is true expedition cruising. If ice conditions allow, we round South Cape and sail north toward Hornsund and Bellsund, deep fjords home to stunning glaciers and wildlife. If ice bars our way, we simply adjust our itinerary, backtrack and delve deeper into the wonders of Spitsbergen's north and west coasts.

### **Day 11 – Longyearbyen**

A midnight cruise of glorious Isfjorden returns us to Longyearbyen and the end of our voyage.

### **Please Note:**

Please note that the itinerary is at the mercy of weather conditions and not all landings are guaranteed. The itinerary is flexible and will change voyage to voyage, allowing the best chance to make the most of surprising wildlife displays and unexpected opportunities.

### **Highlights**

- Sail along Spitsbergen's glacier-filled coastline
- Almost 24-hours of exquisite Arctic sunlight
- Spot polar bears, walruses, ringed seals and more
- Abandoned whaling stations and trappers huts
- Photograph delicate Arctic tundra flowers
- Large colonies of auklets, guillemots and puffins

## **COSTS**

Cabins start from \$8,200 per person (twin share) for an Aurora stateroom (porthole window) and up to a Captain's Suite. Please contact Penny Treyvaud to discuss the options.

A deposit of \$2,500 per cabin is required by 1 May 2018, (non refundable) or earlier if sought by Aurora. The balance is due February, 2020.

It is anticipated we will all meet in Oslo prior to leaving for Longyearbyen, details to be sorted out later.

All bookings will be made, like the previous cruise, through Wild Earth travel. Each participant is make their booking through Penny Treyvaud email -

[Penny.Treyvaud@travelmanagers.com.au](mailto:Penny.Treyvaud@travelmanagers.com.au) or on 0412417442

**Penny Treyvaud**

# BOOKING FORM

## TRAVELLER INFORMATION

Title:	
First name:	
Last name:	
Firm/Clerk (if applicable):	
Postal Address:	
Mobile phone:	
Email:	
Accompanying person/s:	
First name:	
Last name:	

Please return together with a copy of the front page of passport/s.