

Svalbard explored, laterally







In a Nutshell...

Day 1, Friday - Fly from London to Norway, transfer to the S/V Linden

Day 2, Saturday - Private cruising on the S/V Linden

Day 3, Sunday - Transfer to the Isfjord Radio Adventure Hotel

Day 4, Monday - Transfer to Longyearbyen, fly home

Please note: This itinerary is only possible with arrival on a Friday.

Flights...

Date	Airline & Flight	From	Departs	To	Arrives	Class
TBC	TBC	LONDON	TBC	OSLO/	TBC	TBC
TBC	TBC	OSLO/	TBC	LONG-	TBC	TBC
TBC	TBC	LONGYEAR-	TBC	OSLO/	TBC	TBC
TBC	TBC	OSLO/	TBC	LONDON	TBC	TBC

Your Sample Itinerary...

Day 1, Friday - Fly from the UK to Norway

Today meet your guide in Longyearbyen who will take you to the wooden three-masted Schooner Linden. If you have extra luggage, you can leave this in the luggage storage at the Basecamp hotel. Before you start sailing from Longyearbyen you will meet the staff of the ship and be given a safety briefing. You will then begin sailing.

After dinner, you will head ashore where you will encounter thousands of female Brünnich's guillemots. Walking across the tundra, you can also look out for Arctic Skuas who want people to keep a distance from their nests. During the hike, you may see the curious Svalbard Reindeer. You may also see the Arctic fox foraging for bird eggs below the cliffs.

There is no set sailing route, so this itinerary is by way of example only. There are 3 potential options for your sailing expedition depending on weather and conditions. The first is to sail north from Longyearbyen and explore the Ny Ålesund area and Prins Karl Forland (although please note that it may not be possible to sail the Prins Karl Forland straight, as it is very shallow). The second is to come south to explore the area around Bellsund. The third, if the weather means it is not possible to come out of Isfjorden, would be to explore all the arms of Isfjorden, including Pyrdamiden.

Accommodation: S/V Linden

Meals: All

Day 2, Saturday - Sailing on S/V Linden

Today you will explore further from the Linden, according to the weather conditions that day. Wake up surrounded by wild landscape and glimmering glaciers. First the surreal scene appears silent, but you will discover there is a constant fizz, snap and pop of melting ice releasing trapped air bubbles. Millions upon millions of bubbles are continually released as the glacier melts away underneath the ocean surface. And then it happens. The glacier calves with loud roars and tumbles down into the ocean.

After a hearty and healthy breakfast, land and hike into the valley in search of geological clues and patterns. Svalbard is a geological hotspot without much vegetation displaying several billion years of history.







Enjoy lunch back on the ship. Keep your eyes open in case you are lucky enough to spot white flashes of up to 4.5 meters of lean blubber crossing the path. You may see groups of white Beluga whales in the fjord as you get close to Longyearbyen where you are dropped off. They often patrol in front of glaciers, where their prey is slightly dizzy from the combination of sea water and fresh water from the ice.

It is also possible to go hiking across the tundra. Whilst walking you will sit down and listen to the Arctic silence. During a hike you may also spot the only bird who spends its winters in Svalbard, the Arctic ptarmigan. Born a carnivore, the chicks eat insects while their vegetarian parents forage for plants and seeds.

Accommodation: S/V Linden

Meals: All

Day 3, Sunday - Transfer to Isfjord Radio Hotel

This morning, you will hopefully wake to see nearby beaches that are home to tusked walrus colonies. Sightings cannot be guaranteed; the walrus do not like wind or fog as it makes it easier for a polar bear to attack, so the hope is for a calm, clear day.

You will arrive at Isfjord Radio in the morning. Your guide will meet you there and take you on a hike of the surrounding area, if you would like to do so.

While you are staying at Isfjord Radio Adventure Hotel it is not permitted to move outside without a guide in case of polar bears. However, your guide will be happy to guard and guide you should wish to do some of the above activities.

Depending on the weather conditions you may go for a variety of walks and hikes in the area. You might hike to Lake Linné which is located approximately 3 miles from Isfjord Radio Hotel. At the lake, if it is not still iced over, you may take canoes to explore this beautiful part of Nordenskiöld Land from the water. Otherwise, you can hike around the lake where you may spot the Svalbard Rock Ptarmigan or the Arctic Fox in their winter coats.

You could also visit a walrus colony, which would be a different one to the one you visited from S/V Linden.

The experience will vary but will always include local knowledge of the life of a trapper on Svalbard, flora and fauna, geology, birdlife/birdwatching, wildlife such as seals, whales and walruses. You may even get a glimpse of the King or Queen of the Arctic on its endless journey – the Polar bear.



The evening is spent relaxing and enjoying the "Arctic Spa".

When you are staying right by Isfjorden you should seize the chance to take a refreshing bath in the arctic water. After cooling down in the fjord you may warm up again in the arctic sauna. This combination of adrenaline and relief is the core idea of the Arctic Spa. Kokeriet - "The Cookery", as the sauna is named, features a wall-to-wall window allowing you to enjoy the stunning scenery and exciting wildlife outside while comfortably laying on the hot wooden benches. The sauna is also mobile, to ensure the best views during all seasons.

Accommodation: Isfjord Radio Hotel, 2 x double rooms, 2 x single rooms

Meals: All

Day 4, Monday - Transfer to Longyearbyen, fly home

In an open rib-style boat you will be brought from Isfjord Radio Adventure Hotel and back to Longyearbyen in time for your homebound flight.

Before you set off, you will be given some brief instructions and dressed in rescue suits. These suits will keep you dry and warm on your journey back to civilization.

You will travel back to Longyearbyen via Grønfjorden and the Russian settlement Barentsburg. This is a mining settlement with approximately 350 residents, and is fascinating to visit. After enjoying a tour of the town you will enjoy a light lunch in the brewery (there are alternatives). Afterwards, you will head to Longyearbyen and check in at Basecamp hotel.

To experience the magnificent arctic in an open boat will be the perfect final touch to your arctic adventure.

Coming back to Longyearbyen you feel like a different person. You will be one of the few who know the secrets of the fjords, glaciers and mountains of the Arctic.

Meals: Breakfast

***Note** – This option is weather dependent. If the weather is bad and there is a risk that you will not catch the flight on Monday, you will return to Longyearbyen on Sunday.*





Laterally sleeping...

S/V Linden

S/V Linden is the biggest wooden schooner in Europe. The ship features two comfortable lounges with plenty of windows allowing you to gaze at the nature and spot wildlife comfortably seated inside. The bar lounge is also where all meals, briefings and lectures will take place, so you will be able to spot wild life even then.

Sailing with S/V Linden you will have a spacious and private journey as close to Svalbard's wilderness as you can get. A 5-day cruise allows you to go further away from civilization than shorter trips. This is also the safest way to explore Svalbard's wildlife, as you can freely explore on deck without a polar bear guard. Inside Linden, there are two lounges with plenty of windows, so you can watch the nature and spot wildlife even at meal times. We gather in the bar lounge for meals, briefings and lectures. It comfortably fits guests and crew, this is a perfect place to hang out with your fellow passengers. There is also a library lounge on board, where the bookshelves are filled with polar literature.

You are guaranteed an exclusive experience, Linden offers 5 twin cabins with private bathroom and 2 single cabins with shared bathroom for overnight sails. All rooms are inside cabins. An efficient ventilation system provides good options for drying your expedition gear.

On her way to Svalbard, Linden will visit local Danish and Norwegian communities in search of exciting food, giving the chef opportunities to prepare healthy and hearty meals with a creative twist. It is important that the food is real whole food.

Facts about S/V Linden:





Laterally sleeping...

Isfjord Radio Adventure Hotel

This 1933 built solitude outpost for radio operators doesn't look like much from the outside. As you enter, though, you'll discover a different world. The contrast between the surrounding rough coastal landscape and the modern luxury hotel inside is a sight to behold. It is easy to forget where you are, but a quick dip in the Arctic Ocean will bring you back.

Just like the original residents of the outpost, decades ago, you'll gather around the table for dinner prepared in Isfjord Radio's modern kitchen by our top chefs to a standard that would please even the toughest food critic.

Later in the evening, as you lay on your bed surrounded by the Arctic silence, you realize that it has been one of the best days of your life.

Far away from the civilization in Longyearbyen you will discover a history, biological diversity and geological conditions which make Isfjord Radio a fascinating place to visit. This 1933 solitary outpost built for radio operators doesn't look like much from the outside. As you enter though, you'll discover a different world. The contrast between the surrounding rough coastal landscape and the modern hotel inside is a sight to behold. It is easy to forget where you are, but a quick dip in the Arctic Ocean will bring you back.

www.basecampexplorer.com/spitsbergen/hotels/hotel-isfjord-radio



