Follow Norway’s fjord-carved coast, from the charming town of Bergen, past the North Cape to the ice and wildness of the Svalbard archipelago, for a perfect balance between the charmingly scenic and the spectacularly wild. Explore Tromso and Bear Island on the way to Svalbard in the high Arctic, where polar bears prowl and walruses haul out on rocky shores.

**DAY 1 AND 2: U.S./ Copenhagen, Denmark**
Fly overnight to Copenhagen and board the National Geographic Orion. Set sail in the late afternoon. (D)

**DAY 3: At Sea**
Today we settle in to shipboard life aboard Orion. Listen to informal discussions from our naturalist staff, enjoy the ship’s amenities, and head out on deck or to the bridge, scanning for seabirds. In late afternoon, we Zodiac cruise along the shore of southern Norway. (B,L,D)

**DAY 4: Bergen, Norway**
Arrive in the Hanseatic town of Bergen, the gateway to the fjordlands. Stroll historic Bryggen Wharf, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Venture into St. Mary’s Church and the rebuilt Fantoft Stave Church, as well as composer Edvard Grieg’s home. Ride the funicular for an extraordinary view. (B,L,D)

**DAY 5: Nordfjord**
Today we enter lovely Nordfjord, the “gateway to the glaciers”. We spend the morning at the end of the fjord, where we are transported up the Loen Valley via coach through some incredibly beautiful scenes: a turquoise-colored lake on one side and breathtaking mountains all around. A number of relatively flat trails lead along valleys shaped by massive glaciers (more strenuous hikes are also an option). And, we walk to a tongue of the large Briksdal Glacier. This afternoon be on deck as our ship sails back out of the fjord amid high peaks. (B,L,D)

**2017 Departure Dates:**
May 14

**Advance Payment:**
$2,500

**Sample Airfares:**
Economy:.......................from $850
Business:.......................from $3,800
Charter:.......................from $490
Airfares are subject to change

**Cost Includes:**
Accommodations; meals indicated; excursions; services of Lindblad Expeditions’ Leader, Naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes.

**Not Included:**
Air transportation; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, emails, laundry, voyage DVD etc. Gratuities to ship’s crew at your discretion.
DAY 6 AND 7: Exploring the Fjords of Norway

The coast of Central Norway is rugged with mountainous islands and steep-walled fjords. The Expedition Leader and Captain will discuss with the local Norwegian pilots the many landing possibilities for a variety of activities: Zodiac along vertical rock faces, paddle serenely in a deep fjord surrounded by cascading waterfalls, or venture ashore for a hike with our naturalist staff. Over the years, we’ve discovered a number of special places, including Melfjord. This narrow channel is surrounded by high granite cliffs polished smooth by massive glaciers, and is one of the most spectacular spots on our voyage. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Lofoten Islands

The Lofoten Archipelago is an enchanting area of picturesque villages by the sea backed with jagged peaks. By Zodiac, we view nesting seabirds: Atlantic puffins, razorbills and guillemots. Later, we go ashore on the island of Vaeroy, where cod fishing is still a major part of the economy. Be on deck as we cruise into one of the most famous fjords in Norway, the short yet dramatic Trollfjord, and search the cliffs for Norway’s mythical beings: trolls. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: Tysfjorden

There’s no denying that the Norwegian fjords are beautiful, and today we explore places along the Norwegian coastline that raise the standard of landscape-pulchritude to new heights. Our nimble ship enters Tysfjorden, where mile after mile of vertical walls surround us and only a few small villages cling to the rocky shores. Zodiac and kayak along steep-walled fjords, and find inspiration in the birch forests and tumbling waterfalls. The u-shaped valley of Hellemobotn cuts nearly to Sweden and has a trail to hike almost to the border. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Tromso

Tromso is known as the “gateway to the Arctic” because so many Arctic expeditions originated here. Visit the Polar Museum and the Arctic Cathedral, where the unique architecture evokes snow and icebergs. (B,L,D)

DAY 11: Exploring Northern Norway

Today is open for exploration and ideal conditions to hike, kayak and Zodiac cruise amid stunning scenery. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: Bear Island

Zodiac around mist-shrouded Bear Island, populated by thousands of fulmars, kittiwakes, guillemots and gulls. This is a birdwatcher’s paradise. (B,L,D)

DAY 13-17: Exploring Svalbard

Svalbard lies north of the Arctic Circle, where the summer midnight sun never sets. In true expedition style, we let nature dictate our day-to-day movements here and this, by the way, is one of the great attractions of this expedition. Our flexible itinerary and years of experience here allow us to take the best advantage of ice and weather conditions. With our fully stabilized, ice-class expedition ship, we are able to probe deep into the ice where polar bears hunt. Join our spotters on the Bridge, scanning the ice and islands for huge walrus, bearded and ringed seals, arctic foxes, reindeer, some of the largest whales on Earth — and polar bears. A sighting brings everyone rushing in excitement to the ship’s bow! Our expert staff gets you out daily. Depending on conditions, we may land on Edgeoya to

Special Offers

FREE BAR AND CREW TIPS INCLUDED

Beginning in April 2017, we will cover your bar tab and all tips for the crew on all National Geographic Explorer and National Geographic Orion voyages. Please call for details.
hike the tundra, abloom with summer wildflowers. We often sail deep into Hornsund, where even first-time kayakers can paddle in a quiet cove surrounded by sparkling bergs, or get close-up views of the iconic creatures of the ice by Zodiac. Back aboard, view underwater video from our ROV taken 1,000 feet below the surface, or spend time on deck with a National Geographic Photographer getting tips in an inspiring landscape. Every day is different, every day an adventure. (B,L,D)

DAY 18: Longyearbyen/Oslo
Disembark in Longyearbyen and visit the Svalbard Art Gallery and Museum. Then, proceed to the airport for our charter flight to Oslo. Overnight at the SAS Radisson Blu Airport Hotel. (B,L)

DAY 19: Oslo/Home
(B)

National Geographic Orion

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(1) Travel Protection Plan
We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date. Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection “Plus” Plan: [http://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/](http://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/)

(2) Cancellation Plan
Review our cancellation plan: