



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

ARCTIC ODYSSEY:

EXPLORING NORWAY'S SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO,
LAND OF POLAR BEARS & ICE



***ABOARD THE NEW, 76-CABIN EXPEDITION CRUISE
SHIP MINERVA / JULY 8 - 20, 2022***

Dear traveler,

This summer, join a team of lecturers on a voyage that will explore one of the Arctic's most interesting and magnificent areas, Norway's Svalbard (Spitsbergen). Enjoy the comforts of a luxurious expedition ship while exploring a remote region far from tourist routes.

A group of islands located between Norway and the North Pole, Svalbard is a place of vast glaciers, calving icebergs, snowcapped mountains, and majestic serene fjords. Two-thirds of the archipelago is covered by nature reserves created to protect the environment and the remarkable wildlife of the islands. Covered by ice for most of the year, the short Arctic summer that provides 24-hour days reveals the grandeur and natural life of Svalbard. The fish-rich sea that surrounds the islands attracts large numbers of birds, including kittiwakes, Arctic terns, fulmars, puffins, and black and Brunnich's guillemots. Whales, seals, and walrus frequent the area, while the tundra supports a surprising number of flowering plants.

But the undoubted king of this high Arctic archipelago is the polar bear. Svalbard is one of the best places on Earth to observe polar bears in their natural habitat. Estimated to number about 3,000, polar bears outnumber the human population of the islands.

Starting in Oslo, Norway's lovely capital, we will fly to Tromsø, located above the Arctic Circle, where we will embark our ship, and cruise across the Barents Sea to Bear Island, a nature reserve and home to thousands of birds. From Bear Island, it's just an overnight cruise to the Svalbard archipelago, where we will spend seven days exploring this extraordinary group of islands and search for its wildlife, especially polar bears. Our Arctic Odyssey will end in Tromsø, from where we will fly home.

Our home for this Arctic adventure will be SH *Minerva*, a state-of-the-art expedition cruise ship that was purpose-built for polar exploration. Built in Finland and launched in December 2021, SH *Minerva* features the most advanced green mechanical technologies and systems, and accommodates a maximum of 152 guests in spacious staterooms and suites. A team of expert expedition leaders and naturalists will plan and lead our activities ashore, while a fleet of Zodiac landing craft will bring us into intimate contact with the places we will explore.

We hope you will join AIA travelers and a team of lecturers on this unique travel-study adventure. I encourage you to contact AIA Tours today to reserve your preferred cabin type.

Sincerely,



Lauren Cummings
Education & Program Manager, AIA Tours
Archaeological Institute of America



Tromsø



Reindeer on Spitsbergen Island

Cover: Polar bear standing at the edge of the ice in Svalbard

For questions and reservations: **800-748-6262** | aia@studytours.org | www.aiatours.org

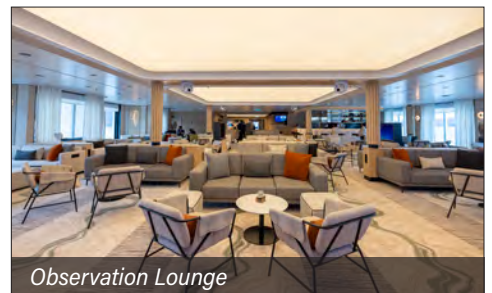
THE NEW, 76-CABIN EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP MINERVA



Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite



Observation Lounge



Sauna



Club Lounge



Outdoor Café / Bar with swimming pool

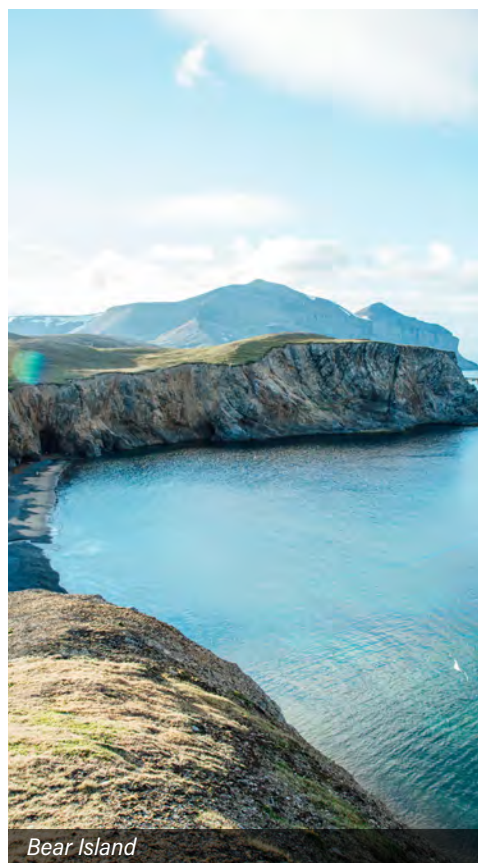
Built in Finland, and launched in December 2021, Swan Hellenic's *Minerva* is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 10,250 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 250 passengers, *Minerva* accommodates a maximum of 152 guests in 76 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Minerva has been designed to meet the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code for ships navigating in Polar regions. Its high PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull, and other technical and mechanical features, allow the ship to cruise the world's remote regions in safety and utmost comfort. Technologically advanced hybrid engines and a system of powerful batteries make it possible for the ship to cruise in ecologically sensitive areas, leaving minimal footprint, while a computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 120

experienced European officers and international crew members, *Minerva* will carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections as well as other amenities. Of the ship's 76 staterooms, 60 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge that is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna that includes an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; a "mud room" with lockers for storing expedition gear; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis.

ITINERARY



Friday, July 8, 2022

Depart home for Oslo, Norway.

Saturday, July 9

OSLO, Norway

Arrive in Oslo, Norway's elegant capital, and transfer to *Clarion Hotel The Hub* (or similar). Tour Oslo in the afternoon, including Frogner Park, which includes the famed Vigeland sculptures, the work of Norwegian sculptor Gustav Vigeland; and the Fram Museum, home to the ships of some of Norway's most notable explorers. Enjoy a welcome dinner.

Meals: D

Sunday, July 10

OSLO/FLY TO TROMSØ

Transfer to the airport for the group flight to Tromsø. On arrival transfer to the port to board the *SH Minerva*. Cruise in the evening.

Meals: B, L, D

Monday, July 11

BEAR ISLAND

Arrive at Bear Island, a small, uninhabited island that is a nature reserve and a designated Important Bird Area that supports huge colonies of birds. Aboard Zodiacs, cruise along the island's cliffs to observe the bird life.

Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, July 12–Monday, July 18

EXPLORING SVALBARD

Spend seven days exploring this incredible archipelago of the High Arctic, located some 600 miles south of the North Pole. In the spirit of an expedition voyage, the ship's schedule will be kept flexible to take advantage of the best opportunities that arise for landings ashore and for wildlife sightings. *SH Minerva's* ice-strengthened hull allows it to enter safely the icy waterways, bays, and fjords of the islands, while the fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing craft, will bring us close to the places we want to explore and spot the amazing wildlife of the islands that includes polar bears. Some of the places we expect to visit are Bellsund, a 16-mile-long sound surrounded by snow-capped peaks and glaciers, where the cliffs house thousands of birds and polar bears are frequent visitors; Monaco Glacier, one of the most stunning in the archipelago; Nordaustlandet, part of the Spitsbergen Northeast Reserve, where polar bears may be spotted in their denning area and reindeer roam the tundra; Wijdefjorden, the longest fjord in the archipelago (more than 80 miles long), part of the Inner Wijdefjorden National Park, created to protect the rich flora of the High Arctic; and the maze of glacier-lined waterways of Southwest Spitsbergen National Park.

Meals: B, L, D every day

Tuesday, July 19

AT SEA

Cruise the Barents Sea back to Tromsø.

Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, July 20

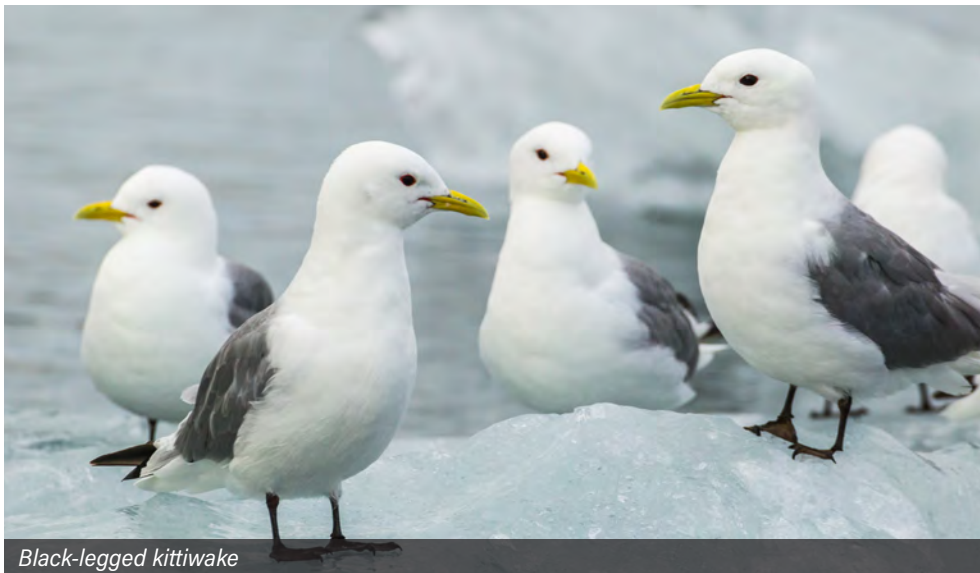
TROMSØ/FLY TO OSLO/FLY HOME

Disembark in Tromsø, the largest city in northern Norway, and transfer to the airport for the group flight to Oslo to connect with independent flights homeward.

Meals: B



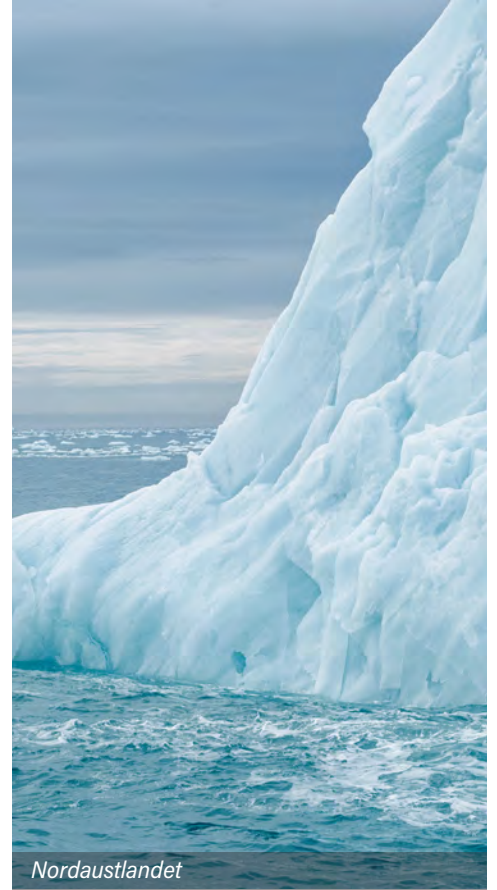
Longyearbyen



Black-legged kittiwake



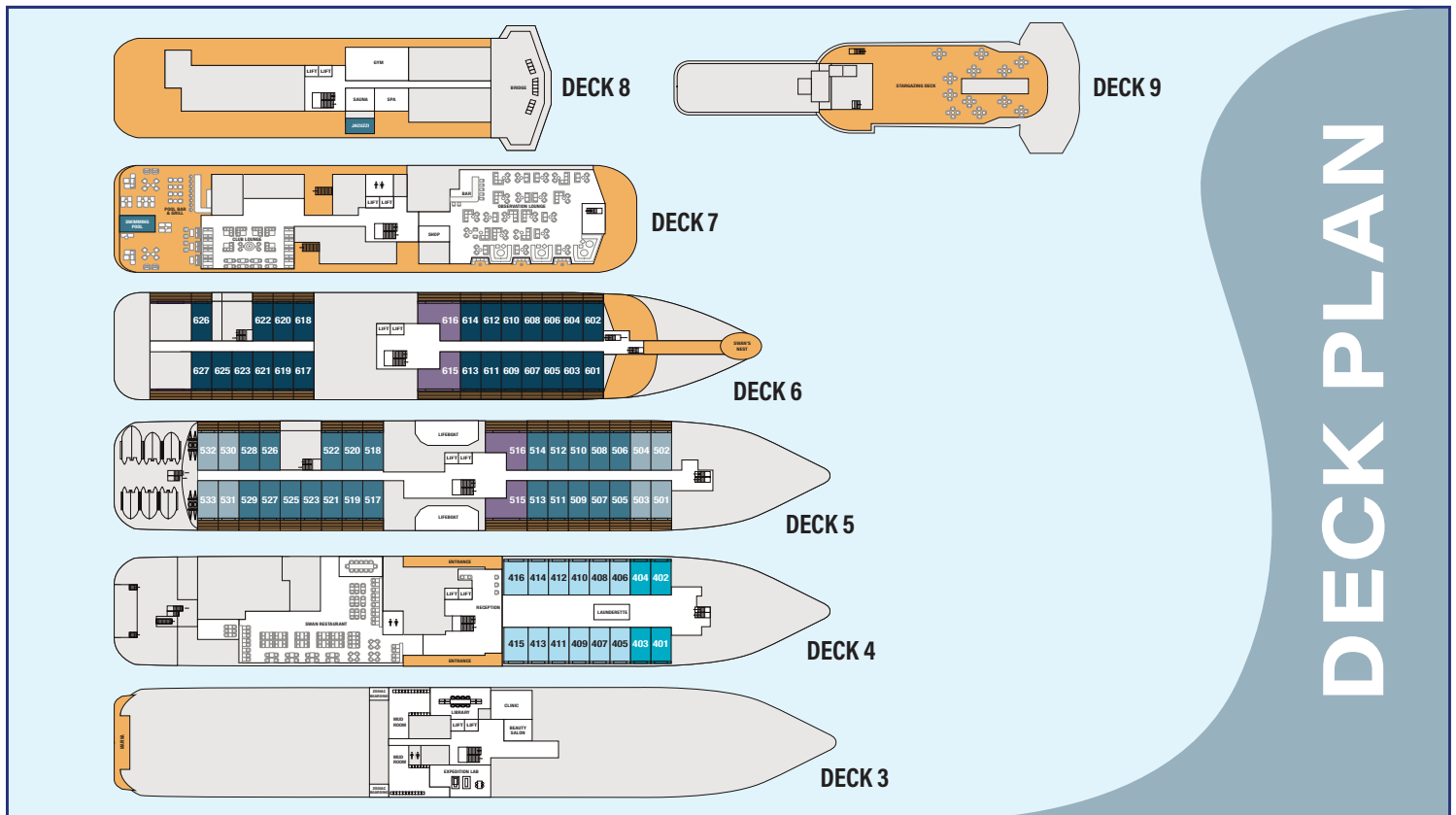
Monaco Glacier



Nordautlandet



Frogner Park, Oslo



RATES: PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

All accommodations aboard *Minerva* are spacious staterooms or balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATE
E	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. Deck 4. 206 sq. ft. Staterooms 401– 404.	\$ 7,490
D	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval portholes. Deck 4. 206 sq. ft. Staterooms 405– 416.	\$ 7,890
C	Suites with balcony & living room area. Deck 5. 300 sq. ft. Suites 501 – 504, 530 – 533.	\$ 8,690
B	Suites with balcony & living room area. Deck 5. 300 sq. ft. Suites 505 – 514, 517 – 529.	\$ 8,990
A	Suites with balcony & living room area. Deck 6. 300 sq. ft. Suites 601 – 614, 617 – 627.	\$ 9,490
AA	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. Decks 5 & 6. 440 sq. ft. Suites 515, 516, 615 & 616.	\$ 10,690

The in-program flights Oslo/Tromso and Tromso/Oslo are not included in the above rates, however these two flights will be booked for you, cost approximately \$450 per person, and are subject to change.

FOR SOLO TRAVELERS

A limited number of staterooms are available for single occupancy in categories E through B at no additional charge. Additional single staterooms are available at a supplement of 40% of the per person double occupancy rate, instead of the normal 70% supplement.

REGISTRATION

Please send your deposit check, **payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA SvalbardSH7/22,"** and this form to:

AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938; Fax: 603-756-2922. For questions or to hold your space while you send in your Registration Form, please contact us at **800-748-6262** or by email: **aia@studytours.org**. Website: **www.aiatours.org**.

NAME#1 _____ BIRTH DATE _____
(As it appears on passport)

NAME#2 _____ BIRTH DATE _____
(As it appears on passport)

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ MOBILE PHONE _____

EMAIL 1 _____ EMAIL 2 _____

PAYMENT

☐ Please charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one): VISA MC AMEX

Name on credit card _____ Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD _____ DATE _____

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA SvalbardSH7/22") to reserve _____ place(s) on ARCTIC ODYSSEY.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Category preference: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference: ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations (limited availability) or

☐ I plan to share accommodations with: _____

☐ I'd like to know about roommates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of May 9, 2022, I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION & PROGRAM DETAILS

Rates Include:

- Services of an expedition leader, team of lecturers/naturalist guides, and professional tour manager.
- One night at Oslo's *Clarion Hotel The Hub*, or similar.
- Welcome dinner at the hotel.
- Cruise aboard the *Minerva*, as described in the itinerary.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage.
- Complete program of lectures, shore landings, and activities organized by the expedition leaders and naturalists.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer, and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the Captain.

- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea, and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, porters, and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Expedition parka (yours to keep).
- Use of rubber boots for shore landings.

Rates Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home, including the Oslo/Tromsø and Tromsø/Oslo flights; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; meals and beverages not listed above; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as medical expenses, laundry, taxi, telephone and excess Internet fees; deviations from scheduled tour; and other items not listed as included.

Air Arrangements: Airfare is not included. The in-program flights Oslo/Tromsø and Tromsø/Oslo will be booked for you, and invoiced separately, at a cost of approximately \$450 per person, and are subject to change. Should you need assistance with booking your flights from/to home, please call **Thalassa Journeys toll-free at 866-633-3611**.

Reservations & Payments: To reserve space, return the completed registration form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main St., Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. We accept checks, payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA SvalbardSH7/22" as well as VISA, MasterCard and American Express for deposits. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure (May 9, 2022). Final payment can be made by personal check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer. Credit cards are NOT accepted for final payment.

Cancellations & Refunds: Cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. All cancellations received 2 months (60 days) or more prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received 59-31 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received 30 days or less prior to departure are subject to a penalty equal to 100% of the full fare. Participants may request half of all cancellation penalties be credited to any future Swan Hellenic cruise operated by Thalassa Journeys. Credits are transferable and are valid through 2023. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not participate in any part of the program, who do not complete the tour for whatever reason, or whose entry into any country or hotel or aboard any cruise vessel on the itinerary is delayed or denied. **For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.**

Note: Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices. Prices, itinerary, and accommodations are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and it is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published. **Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.**

Health: All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. SARS-COV-2 (COVID 19) vaccinations are required for all participants as well as tour staff and shipboard crew. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws.

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ST 42048

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"The SH *Minerva* is a beautiful ship—super nice accommodations, 5-Star food and service, and sustainable. The navigation and stabilizer technology made the Drake Passage comfortable and safe. The officers, service staff and expedition guides were friendly, helpful and knowledgeable."

– David, Kansas (Antarctica January 2022)

ARCTIC ODYSSEY: Exploring Norway's Svalbard Archipelago, Land of Polar Bears & Ice | July 8 – 20, 2022



Walrus, northern Svalbard © R Todd Nielsen

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