Voyage Under the Midnight Sun

ARCTIC EXPEDITION

Spitsbergen • Svalbard Archipelago

Aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star L’AUSTRAL

June 14 to 24, 2019
Dear University of Michigan Alumni Travelers,

Travel connects us to new worlds and bonds us with people beyond our borders. We’ve spent over 50 years planning, perfecting and executing trips for the Wolverine traveler at the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. Trips you’d expect from, and for, the Leaders and Best. We open doors others cannot and offer unique experiences for our travelers. Group sizes are intimate and by traveling with fellow alums you’ll have a bond together even before you reach your destination.

Every trip has been carefully thought out so that you can make the most of the experience. Here are a few of the highlights you can expect from us …

Convenience – Our experience pays off. Every detail is planned out and taken care of for you. All you have to do is pack your bag. The hard part will be selecting a trip.

Experience – You’ll be immersed in the sights and sounds of places far from home.

Learning – All trips include educational content with some featuring U-M faculty and staff traveling with your group.

Exclusive access – We have exclusive access from face-time with expert naturalists to cruising ice packs in search of the King of the Arctic—the polar bear.

Camaraderie – Once you experience a U-M alumni trip you will find there is nothing better than connecting with and sharing your travel experiences with fellow Wolverines.

Details about these trips, as well as others in our travel collection, are available on our website at alumni.umich.edu/travel. Have questions? Reach out to us at 855.764.0064 or at alummitravel@umich.edu.

See the world with Blue.

Carrie Fediuk  Erica Selesky
What it’s really like to be on “Top of the World”

Luminous cobalt-blue glaciers; snow-covered, towering mountainous landscapes; pristine fjords; massive sheets of ice; incredible, uniquely shaped icebergs; and an abundance of wildlife—these wondrous sights will unfold around you on this once-in-a-lifetime expedition into the untouched Arctic’s remote Svalbard archipelago. Be on the lookout for multiple species of whales, bearded seals and long-toothed walruses lazing on the ice; nimble Arctic foxes; graceful Svalbard reindeer grazing on the Arctic’s lush tundra; and Arctic terns and fulmar gliding to and from cliffs. Observe the King of the Arctic—the iconic polar bear—in its natural habitat, hunting seals and traveling over sea ice. The ethereal glow of the Midnight Sun will enhance the true beauty of this extraordinary archipelago as you follow in the footsteps of polar pioneers before you in their quest to reach the “Top of the World.”

Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway

Your Arctic Expedition launches in the small port town of Longyearbyen, the Norwegian Svalbard archipelago’s capital and, at 78 degrees North latitude, approximately 650 miles from the North Pole. Enjoy a glimpse of daily life here in the Longyearbyen Culture House before embarking L’Austral.

Hornsund/Samarin Glacier

An expert naturalist-led excursion navigates through slow-drifting ice by Zodiac in the pristine bay of Burgerbukta to reach the majestic Samarin Glacier. A walk along the glacier examines firsthand its dramatic terrain, frequented by seabirds such as black-legged kittiwakes and Brünnich’s guillemots. Discover the perfect snapshot of miniature Arctic wildflowers.

Native to the Arctic tundra biome, Arctic foxes use their acute hearing to locate prey precisely.

Photo this page: Join your expedition team on Zodiac excursions and guided Arctic walks.

Cover photo: Search for polar bears, exceptionally equipped for the Arctic with their protective coats, heat-absorbing skin and superb swimming skills.
Bellsund
In the bell-shaped sound of Bellsund, surrounded by soaring, snow-covered peaks, anchor off Calypsobyen, part of Sør-Spitsbergen, Norway's largest national park. Relics of the former coal mining settlement offer a glimpse into its history. Expert naturalists accompany you through Calypsobyen's intriguing ecosystem, where nimble Arctic foxes thrive.

Continue to Camp Millar, a former gold mining base and now a favored grazing spot for the Svalbard reindeer. Observe the graceful reindeer, their newborn calves and the large resident colony of auks.

Cruising the Arctic Ice Pack
Approach the Arctic Ice Pack at the approximate latitude of 80 degrees North. Survey expansive sea ice for the King of the Arctic—the polar bear. Ice habitats are crucial for this endangered mammal's hunting and breeding.

Listen for bearded seals' trilling and look for them sunning on the ice, especially during June's molting season.
Keep a keen eye out for these ivory-furred creatures and scan the cobalt-blue waters for bowhead and beluga whales, often spotted swimming in pods. **Woodfjorden** showcases the Arctic’s contrasts—icy, glacier-fronted shores are juxtaposed against the surrounding red sandstone mountains. Cruise to the startlingly beautiful **Monaco Glacier** and listen for the sound of white thunder as the tidewater glaciers calve into the ocean.

Your expert naturalist guides lead an adventurous walk around protected **Raudfjorden**, amidst Svalbard poppies. Look for rare seabirds, such as pink-footed geese, black-legged kittiwakes and glaucous gulls.

Enjoy a Zodiac excursion to the former bustling, 17th-century Dutch whaling station of **Smeerenburgbreen**, today a prized resting shore for long-toothed walruses.

Discover the hub of scientific exploration, **Ny-Ålesund**, one of the world’s northernmost settlements and host to 16 international research stations. In Ny-Ålesund, a popular refuge for ringed and bearded seals, observe these mammals resting in their natural habitats.

An excursion by Zodiac through the inlet of **Kongsfjorden** takes you to the tidewater **Kongsbreen** (King’s Glacier), a nesting ground for waterbirds, barnacle geese, common and king elders, long-tailed ducks, purple sandpipers, Atlantic puffins and snow buntings.

Left: Scan the fjords for humpback whales migrating to the Arctic’s cooler waters during the northern summer to give birth.

**Expert Expedition Team**

An Arctic Expedition Team of seasoned naturalists, who have studied and traveled extensively in the remote Arctic, accompany you throughout your voyage. The team’s collaborative efforts, experience, particular interest in the Arctic’s ecosystems and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge make them exceptionally well-suited to lead your Arctic Expedition under the Midnight Sun.

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Be among the few to view expansive, breathtaking Arctic ice, the oldest of which appears the darkest blue.
Five-Star, State-of-the-Art, Small Ship

Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star L’AUSTRAL, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. The ship’s efficient electrical propulsion system and custom stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage.

Respect for the Environment

With advanced technology and the most environmentally responsible features built into its design and operations, the ship has earned the prestigious “clean ship” certification.

With Our Compliments

Indulge in these complimentary onboard amenities—alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise and in your Suite or Stateroom minibar, Wi-Fi access throughout the ship (satellite reception permitting) and 24-hour room service.

Chic and Casual Dining

The stylish dining room and casual alfresco restaurant feature international cuisine and serve continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner as four courses or buffet. Wine is served at your table with lunch and dinner.

Only 110 Suites and Staterooms—95% Include Private Balconies

Elegant ocean-view accommodations range from 200 to 484 square feet, and most have a private balcony. Each Five-Star Suite or Stateroom features individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower and luxurious hotel amenities, including flat-screen television, a safe, full-length closet, plush robes and slippers.

Life on Board

In addition to educational and cultural presentations, panoramic views, evening entertainment or peaceful retreat, the ship’s spacious public areas comfortably accommodate all passengers. Enjoy two lounges, a theater, library, the Sun Deck with open-air bar, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room and fitness room. The ship has three elevators and 10 Zodiacs.

World-Class Service

The highly trained, English-speaking crew are personable and highly attentive; the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and nurse.
Included Features

In Paris, France

◆ ◆ One night each at the beginning and conclusion of your expedition in the deluxe Hilton Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport Hotel, with breakfast.

Chartered round-trip airfare Paris, France/Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (internal air).

On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star, Ice-Class L’Austral

◆ Seven nights round trip Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway, cruising through the Arctic’s majestic glacial landscapes.

◆ Elegantly appointed, Five-Star Suite or Stateroom.

◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.

◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.

◆ All meals aboard ship.

◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship (satellite reception permitting).

◆ Onboard expedition team of naturalists, who provide a series of lectures about local wildlife and landscapes.

◆ Exploration by Zodiac landing craft, accompanied by an expert naturalist from the expedition team.

◆ Cruise into secluded fjords and bays to search for the endangered King of the Arctic, the polar bear.

◆ Zodiac cruise of the sheltered bay of Burgerbukta, where glacial-blue ice fronts snow-striped cliffs.

◆ Zodiac excursion to remote Samarin Glacier, a dramatic landscape of incredible cobalt-blue ice.

◆ Zodiac excursion to Calypsobyen, a former coal mining settlement, to look for Arctic foxes and terns in the lush tundra.

◆ Zodiac excursion to Camp Millar, once a gold mining base, to spot grazing endemic Svalbard reindeer.

◆ Cruise to Monaco Glacier, an actively calving ice sheet located within scenic Liefdefjorden.

◆ Arctic nature walk along the shores of awe-inspiring Raudfjorden.

◆ Excursion to historic Smeerenburgbreen, a former whaling station, to observe resting walruses on shore.

◆ Discover Ny-Ålesund, an important research town and one of the world’s northernmost communities.

◆ Zodiac cruise of spectacular Kongsfjorden, a fertile environment for birds and bearded seals, to stunning King’s Glacier.

◆ Souvenir polar-grade red parka.

Always Included

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).

◆ Experienced, English-speaking naturalists and local guides for included excursions.

◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.

◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom and on excursions.

◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.

◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director at your service.

◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Normandy
Historic Legacies and Artistic Treasures
Pre-Expedition Option
Commemorate the 75th anniversary year of the Allied forces’ World War II D-Day Invasion during a once-in-a-lifetime visit to historic Normandy. Walk the hallowed grounds where American, Canadian and British forces landed; contemplate the solemn crosses and Stars of David in the American Military Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach; see German emplacements at Pointe du Hoc and the engineered British “Mulberry Harbor” remnants at Gold Beach. Tour charming Honfleur, an inspiration to Impressionists such as Monet and Boudin, and in Rouen, view stunning stained-glass windows at Joan of Arc Church and the impressive Gothic architecture of the Notre Dame de Rouen Cathedral. Spend three nights in the deluxe Hôtel de Bourgtheroulde—ideally located in the heart of Rouen.

Paris • Giverny
Postlude Option
Experience the “City of Light” and Monet’s cherished gardens in nearby Giverny. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Paris, renowned for its historic and aesthetic influence, and see its most noted landmarks. Visit the Louvre, the world’s largest museum, for a guided tour. Enjoy a full-day excursion to Monet’s Gardens—an exquisite living canvas—in charming Giverny. Visit the Impressionist Master’s house and admire his lily pond and iconic Japanese bridge. Spend three nights in the deluxe, ideally located Hôtel Scribe Paris Opéra.

See the remaining infrastructure of Mulberry “B,” the artificial harbor WWII Allied forces created to land troops and supplies on D-Day in Arromanches, France.
Be on the lookout for walruses resting on ice floes drifting on the deep-blue waters.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Gohagan & Company, the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any transportation facilities for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are managed and cannot be used without permission.

PHYSICAL AVAILABILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance is an example for a no change deposit, by which the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, you are agreeing to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street
Suite 506
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446
(312) 609-1140 or (800) 922-3088
http://www.gohagantravel.com
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