



2026 Solar Eclipse Expedition — Svalbard, Greenland and Iceland

MS Spitsbergen, 5 — 19 August 2026



Greenland

Greenland
Sea

Svalbard

Longyearbyen

Norwegian Sea

Murmansk

Sweden

Finland

Norway

Bergen

Iceland

Reykjavik

Legend



— HX Expedition

200 km

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Day 1 – Longyearbyen Embarkation

Our voyage began in Longyearbyen, where guests embarked MS Spitsbergen and settled into their cabins. Throughout the afternoon, the Expedition Team assisted guests with downloading and navigating the HX App, exchanging expedition jackets, and becoming familiar with life on board. Before departure, all guests completed the

mandatory safety drill, ensuring everyone was prepared for the voyage ahead. In the evening, the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader officially welcomed everyone on board and introduced the expedition ahead as we set course westward from Svalbard towards Greenland.

Day 2 – At Sea

We spent our first full day at sea sailing across the Greenland Sea towards East Greenland. Guests were introduced to the ship's Science and Education Programme, learning about citizen science projects and opportunities to contribute to ongoing research during the voyage. Wildlife watches on the outer decks offered chances to search for seabirds, while visits to the Science Centre provided

deeper insight into the region and its ecosystems. Photography enthusiasts joined a session on photo composition, and creative guests personalised their water bottles. The Captain formally welcomed guests to the ship before a special presentation introduced our solar eclipse experts, building anticipation for the astronomical highlight of the expedition.



Day 3 — At Sea

Another day at sea brought us closer to Greenland as preparations continued for our upcoming landings. The day began with stretching and wildlife observation on deck before guests attended briefings covering hiking, kayaking, and the AECO guidelines that support responsible Arctic travel. Citizen science remained a strong focus,

with workshops on cloud observations for NASA and biodiversity recording through iNaturalist. Guests also attended lectures on Greenlandic culture and the science of solar eclipses, while others tested their navigation skills by building simple sextants.



Day 4 — Myggbukta (AM)

After two days at sea, we made our first landing in Greenland at Myggbukta. Guests explored the tundra on a range of walks, enjoying their first close look at the landscapes, plants, and birdlife of

Northeast Greenland. Extended hikers headed further inland while a science boat investigated the marine environment.



Day 4 – Ymer Ø (PM)

In the afternoon, we landed at Ymer Ø. Guests explored the shoreline and surrounding terrain on guided walks, while kayakers and science

boat participants experienced the fjord from a different perspective.



Day 5 – Blomsterbugten (AM)

This morning we went ashore at Blomsterbugten, where guests enjoyed walks across colourful tundra and through the surrounding Arctic scenery. Longer hikes provided wider views of the surrounding

fjords and mountains, while science boat participants explored the coastline.



Day 5 – Maria Ø (PM)

In the afternoon, we arrived at Maria Ø with plans for a landing ashore. On arrival, however, strong winds on the intended landing beach made conditions unsuitable for a safe operation. After assessing the situation, the Expedition Team and bridge decided to

relocate to the sheltered side of the island instead. There, guests were able to enjoy an extended expedition boat cruise through the protected waters, taking in the dramatic scenery from sea level and experiencing the coastline from a different perspective.



Day 6 – Storefjord

We landed at Frydendal in the afternoon, where guests explored a broad valley known for its rich Arctic flora and glacially shaped landscapes. Surrounded by mountains, braided streams, and

colourful tundra, guests enjoyed the opportunity to experience another side of Northeast Greenland's natural environment.



Day 7 – Terrassevig

We spent the morning at Terrassevig, where guests enjoyed a range of activities ashore and on the water, including kayaking and a science boat excursion. The calm conditions provided an excellent final opportunity to explore the landscapes of Northeast Greenland before continuing our voyage. During the afternoon, guests took part

in the onboard programme, with wildlife watches, citizen science activities, and lectures focusing on the upcoming solar eclipse. Others joined workshops and presentations throughout the ship, while the Expedition Team prepared everyone for the highly anticipated day ahead.



Day 8 — Rypefjord & Solar Eclipse

We spent the morning expedition boat cruising among the icebergs of Ø-Fjorden, giving guests the opportunity to experience the immense scale of Scoresby Sund from sea level. Later in the day, all

eyes turned skyward as we witnessed the total solar eclipse, a remarkable event that brought together guests and crew on deck for a memorable afternoon.



Day 9 – Rødepynt (AM)

We landed at Rødepynt, one of the geological highlights of Scoresby Sund. Guests explored the striking red sandstone formations and

layered cliffs, gaining an insight into the ancient history recorded in these colourful rocks.



Day 9 – Harefjord (PM)

This afternoon we cruised in Harefjord by expedition boat, approaching the impressive glacier front and navigating through

scattered ice. The calm conditions provided excellent views of the glacier and the dramatic landscape surrounding the fjord.



Day 10 – Jyttehavn & Bjørneør

As we prepared for our visit to Jyttehavn, a polar bear was spotted swimming in the area. Guests gathered on deck to watch as the bear made its way along the coastline. In the afternoon we explored Bjørneør by expedition boat, cruising beneath the steep cliffs and

rugged slopes of the fjord. Several musk oxen were spotted high on the hillsides, their silhouettes standing out against the landscape and providing excellent views of one of Greenland's iconic Arctic mammals.



Day 11 – Raffles Ø

The journey to Raffles Ø was marked by frequent wildlife sightings, with whales regularly appearing around the ship and large flocks of seabirds accompanying us through the fjords. Later, guests landed on

Raffles Ø to explore the island's peaceful tundra and rugged shoreline.



Day 12 – Hurry Fjord (AM)

We arrived in Hurry Fjord during the morning with plans to land in Nøkkeldal and explore this beautiful valley. Unfortunately, dense fog covered the area and, despite waiting for the visibility to improve, conditions remained unsuitable for a landing. The fog gave the

surrounding mountains a dramatic appearance, and we spent the morning enjoying the scenery from the ship while adapting our plans for the day.



Day 12 – Roma Glacier (PM)

In the afternoon, we repositioned to Roma Glacier, where conditions allowed us to enjoy an afternoon of exploration. We launched our small boats and cruised along the glacier front, admiring the ice formations and the rugged landscapes of Scoresby Sund. A group of

kayakers ventured out onto the water to experience the scenery from a unique perspective. Later, many guests took part in a refreshing polar plunge.



Day 13 – Ittoqqortoormiit

We arrived in Ittoqqortoormiit during the morning and guests went ashore to explore one of Greenland's most remote settlements. Nestled between the mountains and the waters of Scoresby Sund, the colourful houses of the town offered a striking contrast to the surrounding Arctic landscape. Guests walked through the

community's quiet streets, visited local landmarks, and gained a glimpse into daily life in East Greenland. Many stopped by the museum, while others enjoyed exploring the settlement and taking in the atmosphere of a place so isolated from the rest of the world.



Day 14 – At Sea

Our final full day of the voyage was spent at sea as we sailed south towards Iceland. It was an opportunity to relax, enjoy the ship, and reflect on the many experiences shared throughout the journey. Guests attended a variety of lectures, workshops, and science activities, covering topics ranging from Arctic wildlife to navigation and Norse exploration, and spent time on deck watching for wildlife and enjoying the vast North Atlantic scenery. In the afternoon, we

gathered for the Science Recap, revisiting the wildlife, landscapes, and cultural experiences that had marked the voyage. Later, guests joined the Captain's Farewell to celebrate a successful expedition together. The evening concluded with the photographer's slideshow, allowing everyone to relive some of the standout moments from Greenland and Scoresby Sund.

Day 15 – Reykjavík

We awoke alongside in Reykjavik, MS Spitsbergen quietly moored at the city's harbour as another expedition came to an end. The morning was calm as guests began departing the ship and continuing on to their onward destinations. Some stayed behind for a final coffee and a last glance across the harbour, while others headed off to explore Iceland or begin their journey home. The ship gradually became

quieter as familiar faces disappeared down the gangway and farewells were exchanged between guests, crew, and Expedition Team members. Before long, it was time for the last of us to step ashore, bringing our time aboard MS Spitsbergen to a close. We wish everyone safe travels and hope to cross paths again somewhere on the world's oceans.



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