



ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD

ITINERARY



This unique expedition crosses the Arctic Circle and includes the isolated and pristine Wrangel and Herald Islands and a significant section of the wild North Eastern Siberian coastline.

The voyage journeys through the narrow Bering Strait, which separates Russia from the United States of America, and then travels west along the Chukotka coastline before crossing the De Long Strait to Wrangel Island. There you will spend four to five days under the guidance of local rangers on the nature reserve. Untouched by glaciers during the last ice age, this island is a treasure trove of Arctic biodiversity and is perhaps best known for the multitude of Polar Bears that breed here.

The island also boasts the world's largest population of Pacific Walrus and lies near major feeding grounds for the Gray Whales that migrate thousands of kilometres north from their breeding grounds in Baja, Mexico. Reindeer, Musk Ox and Snow Geese can normally be seen further inland.

The 'mammoth steppe' vegetation complex, a rich and diverse relic from the Pleistocene epoch, nurtures over 400 plant species and never fails to astound visitors with its sublime beauty. The number and type of endemic plant species, the diversity within plant communities, the presence of relatively recent mammoth tusks and skulls, a range of terrain types and geological formations in the small geographical space, are all visible evidence of Wrangel's rich natural history and its unique evolutionary status within the Arctic.

The expert expedition team will take you on guided walks and Zodiac cruises, and will provide lectures to help you better understand and appreciate this unique High Arctic landscape.

LENGTH	15 days
GRADE	A - You need to be in reasonably good health
START	Nome, Alaska or Anadyr, Russia
FINISH	Nome or Anadyr
ACCOMMODATION	Cabins
DEPARTURES	July 2019: 22 August 2019: 5, 19
PRICES	Main Deck Twin NZD \$11,025.00 Superior USD \$12,075.00 Superior Plus USD \$13,125.00 Mini Suite USD \$13,650.00 Heritage Suite USD \$14,500.00 Overland Traverse option USD \$1,450.00 Landing Fees USD \$500.00 Private charter flight Nome to Anadyr to Nome USD \$2,000.00

ITINERARY

DAY 0 NOME, ALASKA TO ANADYR, RUSSIA

Those departing from Nome, Alaska, should arrive in Nome before midday and preferably the previous night. Your adventure begins with a flight across the Bering Sea and International Date Line, arriving into Anadyr on Day 1 of the expedition.

DAY 1 EXPLORE ANADYR

Board 'Spirit of Enderby'

All expedition members will arrive in Anadyr; depending on your time of arrival you may have the opportunity to explore Anadyr, the administrative centre of the Chukotka region, before getting to know your fellow voyagers and crew on board the Spirit of Enderby.

As the ship departs you are invited to join the captain, officers and the expedition team on the bridge. The Anadyr estuary is renowned for its Beluga Whales.

DAY 2 ANADURSKIY BAY

At sea today, there will be some briefings and lectures. There will also be a chance to relax or enjoy some 'birding' with our naturalists and/or settle into ship life. Late this afternoon the ship will be in the vicinity of Preobrazheniya Bay where there are some outstanding 'Bird Cliffs' which you will Zodiac cruise before dinner.

DAY 3 YTTYGRAN, NUNEANGAN AND ARAKAMCHRCHEN ISLANDS

Yttygran Island is home to the monumental ancient aboriginal site known as Whale Bone Alley. Whalebones stretch along the beach for nearly half a kilometre. In one location, immense Bowhead Whale jawbones and ribs are placed together in a stunning arch formation.

Gray Whales are frequently seen around the island. After landing at Whale Bone Alley, you will join the Zodiacs on a whale-watching excursion. You will also cruise close inshore of neighbouring Nuneangan Island (Bird Island) where a large number of seabirds nest and walrus can be found.

DAY 4 CAPE DEZHNEV AND UELEN VILLAGE

Sea conditions permitting, you will land at Cape Dezhnev early this morning.

The north-eastern most point of the Eurasian continent, it is sometimes possible to see the coast of America from this remote and lonely outpost. A few nautical miles to the west of Cape Dezhnev you visit Uelen Village the most north-eastern village in Russia. Archaeological work has revealed that walrus, seal and whale hunters have lived here for over 2,000 years. Today the population is predominantly Chukchi and the village is one of the largest centres for traditional Chukchi and Inuit art in the world. You'll be entertained by villagers and visit the bone-carving workshop during your visit.

DAY 5 KOLYUCHIN ISLAND

This small island was once an important Russian Polar Research Station and one of a number dotted across the Arctic. Near the derelict buildings are some of the most spectacular bird cliffs in the Arctic where puffins, guillemots and gulls can be observed and photographed up close.



DAY 6 - 10 WRANGEL AND HERALD ISLANDS

Ice and weather conditions permitting, you will spend the next few days on Wrangel Island and will also attempt to include a visit to nearby Herald Island. There are many landings that can be made to search out wildlife, wild flowers and Arctic landscapes.

Polar Bears will be high on the list of animals to see and with a little patience you should be rewarded with a number of encounters. Musk Oxen and reindeer were introduced to the island in 1975 and 1948 though reindeer numbers are low.

You also have a chance to visit Dragi Harbour where the survivors of the Karluk, which was crushed by ice in 1914, scrambled ashore and lived until they were rescued.

Wrangel Island is a Russian Federal Nature Reserve of international significance and importance particularly as it is a major Polar Bear denning area. Also each summer thousands of birds migrate here to breed, including Snow Geese, Snowy Owls, skuas, Arctic Terns and Ross's, Sabine and Ivory Gulls.

DAY 11 NORTH SIBERIAN COAST

Bounded by narrow sand ridges with numerous lagoons and inlets, this area offers plenty of places to land and explore this extensive coastline.

You will be on the lookout for whales, walrus and other wildlife. You will see Chukchi villages whose residents survive in an unforgiving climate, hunting seals and whales just as their ancestors did.

DAY 12 KOLYUCHIN INLET

So huge that it is visible from satellite photos, this inlet contains vast numbers of waterfowl and migratory waders.

You visit Belaka Spit near the mouth of the inlet. It is a wild, desolate landscape that is strangely beautiful. Search the dunes and tidal areas for birdlife including Emperor Geese and Spoon-billed Sandpipers.

Gray Whales frequent the area and are sometimes spotted feeding only metres offshore.

DAY 13 BERING STRAIT AND CHUKOTKA COAST

Early morning you will pass the Diomed Islands, sometimes called Tomorrow Island and Yesterday Isle because they straddle the International Date Line. Here Russia and America are separated by only 2.3 nautical miles of ocean.

You will remain in Russian territory as you cruise south past the islands. Later this afternoon you make an expedition landing on the Chukotka coast your last chance to enjoy the wildlife and tundra landscape.

DAY 14 - AT SEA

Join the staff for an expedition recap and a disembarkation briefing, and then simply relax as you sail across Anadyrskiy Bay towards Anadyr. Tonight you will enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate your journey.

DAY 15 - ANADYR

You disembark after breakfast, with a complimentary transfer to your hotel or the airport.

Those returning to Nome will join a charter flight that will depart Anadyr around midday and, because of the International Date Line, will arrive back in Nome on the evening of the previous day. However, it is strongly advised that you do not book any onward travel from Nome until the following day to allow for possible delays in the charter flight.



OPTIONAL: OVERLAND TRAVERSE - EXCLUSIVE WRANGEL ISLAND EXTENSION

DAY 6 DOUBTFUL HARBOUR

Join local Rangers on a 3 day (2 night) overland journey by special tundra buggy on a traverse of the incredible Wrangel Island Nature Reserve to see and experience the remotest parts of the Island and enjoy unique wildlife encounters. Limited to two groups of 5 persons per expedition.

A limited number of seats are available on this very special Overland Traverse. Transport is by a six wheel Russian built Tundra vehicle brought to the island in 2010. Each traverse is led by rangers from Wrangel Island. Numbers are strictly limited; we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

On arrival the 'Overlanders' will go ashore, spend the afternoon and evening exploring the area including the nearby spit known for large haul outs of walrus. Visit Devil's Creek, the only archaeological site on the island where remains of a Paleo-Eskimos summer camp were discovered recently. The overnight accommodation will be Wrangel Ranger huts at Somnitelnya.

DAY 7 SOMNITELNYA

Travel north firstly over the southern tundra slopes climbing gradually to a mountain pass through the Somnitelnie Mountains. A steep descent takes you to a tributary of the Mammoth River, the longest river on the island. In the evening, you will enjoy a walk on the tundra slopes with possible sightings of Snowy Owls, Lemmings, Arctic Foxes and a huge variety of High Arctic plants. Stay overnight at the Peak Tundra hut, a field hut for studies of the Snow Geese nesting nearby.

DAY 8 ACADEMIC TUNDRA

Continue down the Tundra River to the Academic Tundra, an extensive area that makes up over half the island. There are opportunities to see amazing fields of wild flowers, Musk Ox, and potentially reindeer, although numbers have been greatly reduced by recent harsh winters. You will return to the ship at midday near the Drum Head Mountains (also known as the Dream Head Mountains) on the north coast of the island.

Price: \$1,450 (All prices are per person in USD)

Price Includes: Transport, accommodation (basic field huts) and meals. Please note this is in addition to the cost of the cruise.

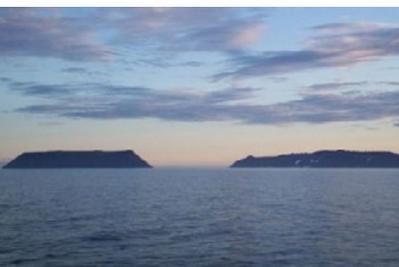
Price Excludes: Travel insurance, gratuities and other items of a personal nature.

(Northbound extensions is Days 6-8 of the cruise; the Southbound option is Days 8-10. The Southbound itinerary will operate in reverse to the above itinerary).

Note: This Wrangel Island extension is an optional activity and conducted in conjunction with the voyage but independently operated by the Park Rangers. It is subject to minimum numbers, reserve regulations, weather and ice conditions. Participants should be aware that there is no discount or compensation for missed landings that the main expedition makes, possibly including Herald Island, while they are participating in the extension.

ITINERARY CHANGES

Due to the nature of this expedition, weather or government regulations may require changes to be made to the itineraries and/or the cancellation of certain shore excursions. Every attempt will be made to adhere to the itineraries described within the limits of safety and time. The ship's captain has the last word on any decision made with regard to the vessels itinerary and it is understood that such a decision will be made in the interest of safety of the vessel and of all the passengers on board. In the event of changes, passengers have no right to any refund or other compensation. Expedition fees are based on group participation. Should you choose not to take part in any activity or make use of services provided, no refund will be made.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE A

- General good health necessary.
- No specific fitness requirements.

Clients must be in good general health to join our expeditions. The expedition is ship-based, and physically not very demanding.

Although we spend as much time as possible ashore, you are welcome to remain aboard the ship if you like. To join the voyage, you must be able to get up and down steps between the different ship levels and up and down the gangway to board the zodiacs for the excursions ashore.



GUIDES AND SAFETY

Rodney Russ – Expedition Leader

Rodney trained with and worked for the New Zealand Wildlife Service (now Department of Conservation) as a “Protected Species Officer” – responsible for the management and conservation of rare and endangered bird species. His work took him the length and breadth of New Zealand and to the Sub Antarctic Islands. He became more passionate about the need to share the natural world with people, emphasising the need for advocacy in a successful conservation strategy.

In addition to New Zealand Expeditions Rodney has led expeditions to the Pacific and Asia and more recently to South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula. His goal in everything that he does is to provide opportunities, which enhances the traveller’s experience and understanding of the natural world. Expeditions are also led by some of the most experienced Southern Ocean naturalists, who have devoted a lifetime to research.



FOOD

Dining is informal and relaxed, and the cuisine outstanding. Award winning chefs prepare delicious meals and are able to cater to most dietary requirements. A selection of fine New Zealand and Australian wines is available. Unfortunately, Kosher, Halal and Vegan meals are NOT available onboard.

TRANSPORT

Expedition Vessel Spirit of Enderby is one of the best-run ships of its kind. On board the atmosphere is peaceful and warm.

With just 50 passengers a very tangible camaraderie is created amongst passengers and crew. The ship is under the command of an experienced team of Russian Officers, with a passionate and knowledgeable expedition team.

Built in 1984, the Spirit of Enderby measures 72 metres in length and is fully ice-strengthened. Powered by two, 1,156 horse-power, diesel engines, it is capable of speeds of up to 12 knots. The vessel is fitted with stabilisers, making travel much more comfortable. You are encouraged to spend time on the bridge to witness the experienced captain and officers in action. The team of expert staff is always on hand to assist with every need and question.

Throughout the voyage a log is recorded of seabirds, dolphins or whales and an expedition log is kept, a bound copy of which will be sent to everybody at the conclusion of the expedition.

The key to these expeditions is the fleet of semi rigid inflatable Naïad (Greek for water nymph) craft, also known as zodiacs. These extremely safe and stable craft will land you at some of the most amazing places, where few others have ever been.



ADDITIONAL COSTS

Not included in expedition and landing fee:

- Airfare to and from your home to the port of departure or arrival in Anadyr
- Items of a personal nature such as insurance, and excess baggage charge.
- Travel insurance
- Passport, visa and vaccination fees.

On board the ship: beverages, communication charges, medical supplies, laundry, sea shop purchases.

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

ACCOMMODATION

Heritage Suite:

Has a large lounge area, a separate bedroom with double bed, a single bed in the lounge, writing desk, wardrobe, drawers, fridge. There is a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. There are large forward and side facing windows with great views.

Mini Suite:

Has a separate bedroom with a double bed, a single bed or sofa in the lounge, wardrobe, drawers, a desk and a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. This suite has windows.

Superior Plus:

Cabins have two lower berths, wardrobe, drawers, a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.

Superior:

Cabins have one bunk (an upper and lower berth), wardrobe, drawers, a desk, a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.

Main deck:

Cabins have two lower berths, wardrobe, drawers, a desk and a wash-basin. The nearby showers and toilets are shared with other Main deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Single Travellers

Single travellers who wish to share their cabin/hotel room should so indicate on the booking form. The published per person double occupancy fare is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabin mate is available.

Single travellers who require sole occupancy of cabins will be charged 1.8 x the published fare on all cabins except suite cabins which will be charged at 2 x the published fare.

Payment

You may request to pay for this tour in US or NZ dollars. You may do so either by credit card or directly into our US or NZ dollar account.

NZ bank account details can be found on our booking form, or we can send the US bank account details to you by email. Please specify if you wish to take this option when you make your booking.

If paying in NZ\$ the current exchange rate on the day of booking will be used. As exchange rates are constantly changing there is no guarantee that your credit card bill will come out to the exact US dollar price as advertised.

Deposit

A deposit of 25% of the expedition fee is required upon booking to confirm participation. The balance of the fee is payable 95 days prior to departure date.

Cancellations

Cancellations must be received in writing.

For cancellations received more than 180 days before departure date, a full refund will be made less \$US750.00 fee per person for administration/handling fee.

For cancellations received within 179 days and 121 days of your embarkation date, the full deposit is forfeited.

Within 120 days of your departure date, the full expedition fee is forfeited.

If cancellation occurs within 120 days and full payment has not yet been received, the total price will still apply and any unpaid monies are due immediately.

On forwarding the deposit you agree to be bound by the terms and conditions found here.

Price Changes

We reserve the right to alter our prices should there be substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, cost of fuel, labour or materials.

PACKING LIST

ON BOARD THE SHIP:

The ship is heated throughout with the normal temperature 17-25C. In keeping with the expedition's atmosphere, dress on board is informal. Bring casual and comfortable clothing. Keep in mind that much of the spectacular scenery can be appreciated from deck, which can be slippery. Bring sturdy shoes with no-slip soles and make sure your raincoat is never far away in case the call "Whales!" comes over the loud speaker and you have to dash outside. Wear layers since it is comfortably warm on board the ship – and cooler on deck. There may be an occasion, i.e., Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or a spontaneously Posh Night where you may require clothing that is a little more formal.

TIPS TO STAY COMFORTABLE AND WARM IN COLD WEATHER:

❑ Avoid overdressing to reduce perspiration. Wear water repellent outer garments that will keep you dry on the outside and still breathe enough so that moisture from your body can escape. Body heat is most likely to be lost from parts that have a lot of surface area in comparison to total mass – namely, the hands and feet. Keep them warm and dry. For hands, mittens are better than gloves.

❑ If the rest of your body is covered, as much as 90% of heat can come from your head, so be sure to wear a hat, beanie or balaclava. These items can be pulled down to protect your ears, forehead, neck and chin. The neck also needs protection with a woollen or synthetic scarf that can be wrapped around the face, when travelling against the wind.

❑ Dress in comfortable, loose layers. For anyone out in the cold, it is far better to wear layers of relatively light, loose clothing than one thick, heavy item. Between each layer there is a film of trapped air which, when heated by your body, acts as an excellent insulator. Keep from overheating.

❑ Wool and silk are superior to cotton because they can trap warm air. Synthetic fabrics that spring back into shape after compression are also good. When damp or wet, polyester down is better insulator than goose or duck down. Polar fleece is popular and recommended.

WHAT TO TAKE

- ❑ Several layers of wool, polypropylene and/or warm trousers
- ❑ Waterproof trousers
- ❑ Thermal Underwear
- ❑ Sweaters/Jerseys
- ❑ Turtlenecks
- ❑ Mittens and Gloves
- ❑ Woollen Hat or Balaclava
- ❑ Warm Socks
- ❑ Rubber Boots (Gumboots or Wellingtons as we commonly call them)
- ❑ Waterproof & Windproof Jacket
- ❑ Backpack
- ❑ Sunglasses
- ❑ A pair of Binoculars – highly recommended

Other:

- ❑ Sandals or similar (slip on sandals) are very useful to wear around the ship
- ❑ Earplugs may be useful if sharing a cabin with a snorer

