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Tent camps and Hiking in Central Spitzbergen 2010

- > Icefjord – Boat, Hiking & Trekking 2010
- > Camps for Photographers and Naturalists (page 6)



B = Birdcliff Camp, C = Longyearbyen Camping, G = Glacier Camp, I = Inland Camp, P = Petunia Camp, S = Pointed Peaks Camp.

Tip: Program variety F and the programs for photographers and naturalists and therefore especially comfortable regarding carrying of baggage !

Icefjord – Boat, Hiking & Trekking 2010

Duration & prices ex/to Longyearbyen – all versions (detailed prices: page 5):

Icefjord Hiking & Trekking (A): 24 days, 3 settlements + 4 wilderness camps from NOK 22000

Birdcliff, Inland & Pointed-Peaks (B): 17 days, 2 settlements + 3 wilderness camps from NOK 14700

Inner Icefjord & Inland (C): 17 days, 2 settlements + 4 wilderness camps from NOK 14700

Billefjord-Trekking (D): 10 days, 2 settlements + 2 wilderness camps from NOK 10500

Birdcliff & Inland (E): 10 days, 1 settlement + 2 wilderness camps from NOK 7800

Longyearbyen & Pointed Peaks (F): 10 days, 2 settlements + 1 wilderness camp from NOK 9400

Dates ex/to Longyearbyen:

Icefjord - Hiking & Trekking 24 days (A): 2. 7. – 25. 7. 2010, 9. 7. – 1. 8. 2010, 16. 07. – 8. 08. 2010,
23. 7. – 15. 8. 2010, 30. 07. – 22. 8. 2010, 06. 08. – 29. 08. 2010

Birdcliff, Inland & Pointed Peaks 17 days (B): 9. 7. – 25. 7. 2010, 16. 7. – 1. 8. 2010, 23. 7. – 8. 8. 2010,
30. 7. – 15. 8. 2010, 6. 8. – 22. 8. 2010, 13. 8. – 29. 8. 2010

Inner Icefjord & Inland 17 days (C): 2. 7. – 18. 7. 2010, 9. 7. – 25. 7. 2010, 16. 7. – 1. 8. 2010,
23. 7. – 8. 8. 2010, 30. 7. – 15. 8. 2010, 6. 8. – 22. 8. 2010

Billefjord Trekking 10 days (D): 2. 7. – 11. 7. 2010, 9. 7. – 18. 7. 2010, 16. 7. – 25. 7. 2010,
23. 7. – 1. 8. 2010, 30. 7. – 8. 8. 2010, 6. 8. – 13. 8. 2010

Birdcliff & Inland 10 days (E): 9. 7. – 18. 7. 2010, 16. 7. – 25. 7. 2010, 23. 7. – 1. 8. 2010,
30. 7. – 8. 8. 2010, 6. 8. – 15. 8. 2010, 13. 8. – 22. 8. 2010

Longyearbyen & Pointed Peaks: 10 days (F): 16. 7. – 23. 7. 2010, 23. 7. – 1. 8. 2010, 30. 7. – 8. 8. 2010,
6. 8. – 15. 8. 2010, 13. 8. – 22. 8. 2010

Why do you want to visit Spitsbergen ?

If it is to experience arctic nature directly and intensively, there is probably no better way than being truly out in nature: camping and hiking. On a ship, you may be faster, get more around and have better chances for seeing the big mammals – but for the real, direct, intensive experience, there is no better way than actually living in nature. Less (distance, comfort) is often more (lasting experiences). While a certain fitness and agility is of course needed for a longer hiking and camp tour, we try with this program to limit the least pleasurable part of hiking: carrying heavy packs. Including Longyearbyen, this program is based on 6 (!) base camps, which are not only placed, each of them, in unique, different settings, but which save you also from carrying tents, stoves, fuel and lots of food over longer distances. On most days, in fact, you have to carry only your day-pack. And the philosophy of this tour is not a focus on extreme physical achievements but to enjoy being out in the wilderness on hikes, of course on the basis of a certain necessary fitness standard (see requirements). Only 3 of the total 22 days are trekking from one camp to the next (22, 16 and 10 km) where the complete personal luggage has to be carried – and you can even book a part of the tour without any trekking at all.

We started this program in 1990 and have developed it since to a versatile modular system: you can buy the complete tour of 23 days, thereby having all 6 camps and the maximal range of different sceneries. Or you can book parts of 9-17 days, choosing the areas you are most interested in (example: for combining with a cruise, it can make sense to focus on the inner Icefjord for the hiking part, due to its different landscape in comparison with the west coast seen from the cruise).

What makes this program special (compare with others !):

- Small groups (max. 12 participants, needed minimum 4 participants, occasionally even possible with less)
- Up to 6 (!) different camps and visit of up to 3 settlements (Longyearbyen, Pyramiden, Barentsburg)
- Up to 4 fjord cruises included, serving also as transfer between camps
- Use of stationary camps with depots reduces backpack weight considerably
- Maximal only 3 trekking days where you have to carry all your personal baggage between camps
- 1 English-speaking guide available on all departures (from 8th participant onwards 2 guides per group) – and contrary to some other tour operators, you will not experience a guide who gathers his/her first Spitsbergen experiences only together with your group !

Program:

The following program describes the full 23 days version (Icefjord Hiking & Trekking (A)) and shows where the shorter versions join (example: “C+”) or leave (example: “D-”) the full program. Additional informations for the shorter versions follow after.

Observe that we reserve the right of alterations of this program at short notice, especially when based on natural causes (ice, waves, wind, snowmelt, rain, fog, etc.) or technical problems (like boat damage), which

in such remote places cannot be repaired instantly. Alterations of program by up to 1.5 days are nothing extremely unusual. Accordingly, the following schedule has the character of a realistic example, which we try to follow, but is not binding. In some cases, we may have to reverse the order of programs partly or fully. To reduce problems in such cases of change, all program varieties have 1-2 days in Longyearbyen area at the end, which serve also as reserve days before flights in case of for instance a delayed return. Accordingly, we are reluctant accepting a shortening of programs by these days, while extra days can be booked in addition with or without program.

Icefjord Hiking & Trekking (A) 23 days – the complete version

Day 1(Friday): A+, C+, D+ Arrival with scheduled flights from Oslo or Tromsø around midnight (Thursday/Friday), meet our guide at the airport, short walk of about 500 m to nearby campsite with guide and initial information. Night rest and breakfast. Transfer to center of Longyearbyen, guidance around Longyearbyen. Break for having a meal and some shopping, transfer to the boat. The cruise will lead into Billefjord, one of the innermost Icefjord branches, passing sharp-cut majestic plateau mountains on both sides. Landing in the Russian ghost town of Pyramiden, where a few modern accommodation containers in the small port serve as our base for the next days. Depending on boat availability, the cruise may alternatively be done on Saturday instead, with according adaption of the program of the following days. In this case, there will be a first hiking excursion from Longyearbyen already on Friday afternoon to get acquainted with the arctic wilderness and terrain.

Day 2-4 (Sat-Mon): Breakfast, followed by day-excursions and evening meal again at the camp. Pyramiden has one of the most impressive settings of all settlements in Spitsbergen, dominated by the pyramid-shaped mountain above the settlement, and with mighty Nordenskiöld glacier greeting across the fjord. The vicinity includes several inland glaciers of various size with partly impressive moraines, a number of attractive mountains (600-1000m), an interesting geology including a range of fossils, and a rich tundra vegetation - more than enough possibilities for rewarding day excursions ! And then, there is Pyramiden itself. Deserted by the miners in 1998, it looks in many places like people have just left yesterday, while elsewhere signs of decay are obvious – a bizarre, special atmosphere, with a small friendly team of Russians trying to do some basic maintenance.

Day 5 (Tue): After breakfast, we pack and then set out on the first trekking (21 km, usually about 8 hours) around Petunia Bay, including the crossing of the river delta at its end, then passing some old cabins and the bizarre rock formations of Fortet, where our destination comes fully into sight: the huge ice front of the Nordenskiöld glacier. Next to it, at a nice stream in a spectacular setting of ice-polished rocks with the towering icewall just about 200 m away, we reach our Glacier Camp, set up the tents and prepare the evening meal.

Day 6-7 (Wed-Thu): Breakfast, followed by day-excursions and evening meal again at the camp. The undoubted highlight of the camp is the nearby glacier front. You hear the regular thunder of calving icebergs from the tent and with good weather, we may have our meals on a rock just above the camp with a dramatic view right into the ice wall, hoping for seeing a calving. Also for excursions, the glacier with its ice shapes is the obvious number one (no real climbing, as on all our arrangements), but the area offers also 2-3 hiking tours to nearby mountain tops and a varied geology. The camp was moved to this location in 2002, now on the northern side of the glacier, so even for repeaters, this is mostly new terrain.

Day 8 (Friday): B+, E+, D-. After breakfast, we will pack and prepare the departure, but first will have another shorter day excursion as the boat usually does not come before late afternoon/evening, having on board from Longyearbyen joining participants of versions B+ and E+. An inflatable will take the participants to the fjord boat, continuing the tour to the southern side of inner Isfjord to our Birdcliff Camp, where the group is landed and sets up the camp (D-: participants of version D continue by boat to Longyearbyen). Depending on boat availability, the cruise may alternatively be done on Saturday instead, with according adaption of the program of the following days.

Day 9-10 (Sat-Sun): Breakfast, followed by day-excursions and evening meal again at the camp. The Birdcliff Camp is situated at a beach with a wide scenic view onto the northern side of Isfjord, including the majestic Temple Mountain and the various glaciers of outer Isfjord. A highlight are the various nearby birdcliffs of magmatic rock with colonies of mainly guillemots, some puffins and glaucous gulls. Further usual breeders in the area are barnacle geese and Arctic skuas, some foxes patrol under the bird cliffs and reindeer graze on the well-fertilized tundra vegetation – a good site for birdwatchers, botanists and photographers. From second half of July onwards, life in the birdcliff gets less, but some of the birds return here also long after the end of the breeding season. Apart from the wildlife, the surroundings of the camp are excellent for a number of hikes, both coastal and into valleys and onto nearby mountain tops with splendid view – good weather provided. Chances for finding some fossils (mostly marine).

Day 11 (Monday): After breakfast, we stow away the camp, then starting on our longest trek, about 22 km through small valleys and across two low passes into the peaceful inland of central Spitsbergen. In the big Adventdalen (valley), we reach the site of our Inland Camp and set it up on the outcrop of a so-called "pingo" –

a kind of "ice volcano" as one of the many peculiarities of permafrost regions. As usual: preparation of the evening meal and rest from the long trek (typical: 6-8 hours from camp to camp).

Day 12-13 (Tue-Wed): Breakfast, followed by day-excursions and evening meal again at the camp. The lonesome, silent inland scenery of sheltered Adventdalen, with grazing reindeer and the surrounding mountains and some inland glaciers are a clear contrast to all the coastal sceneries of the tour. After the trek on day 11, we usually do a shorter hike on day 12 and a longer one on day 13. There is a number of rewarding inland peaks (no real climbing), the higher ones (up to 1150m) with an enormously wide panorama view right to the big islands in the east of the archipelago under good weather conditions, a big inland glacier with interesting moraines, interesting permafrost and erosion structures and botanic attractions like the dwarf birch as the biggest "tree".

Day 14 (Thursday): After breakfast, the camp is to be stored away and then follows the shortest of the trekkings –from the Inland Camp about 10 km down the Adventdalen – including the wading of Advent River (wading equipment stored at the Inland Camp). Usually, this trekking takes 3-5 hours, ending at the road to Longyearbyen where the group is picked up and driven to the camping site. Shower ! Transfer to town.

Day 15 (Friday): F+. Breakfast at campsite, then transfer to town. Guided visit to the museum, opportunity for shopping and restaurant visit. Afternoon: short hiking tour near Longyearbyen.

Day 16 (Saturday): Breakfast at campsite. Versions A, B and F: transfer to port, fjord cruise to Russian settlement Barentsburg (1-2 hours sightseeing there), then further across the entrance of Isfjorden, landing at our Pointed Peaks Camp in the narrow Trygghamna (Safe Harbour) fjord. Setting up of camp and short walk, then preparation of evening meal. Spare day at own disposal for versions C and E, who leave the next morning.

Day 17-19 (Sun-Tue): Breakfast, followed by day-excursions and evening meal again at the camp. Trygghamna is already part of the tertiary folding zone, resulting in the spectacular alpine pointed peaks scenery, which stimulated Willem Barents in 1596 to call the archipelago Spitsbergen ("pointed peaks") – a very different landscape compared to the monumental and sharply cut plateau-type mountains in many parts of inner Icefjord and thereby an excellent completion of this hiking program. The camp is situated on a beach in the sheltered innermost part of the bay – with a fantastic panorama of the rugged peaks around the fjord and the nearby glacier terminating into its end. Nice excursion possibilities, from easy beach walks to longer but not particularly difficult crossings of the glacier to some nice viewpoints on mountains of the area. General rule: no real climbing, but pathless, occasionally demanding terrain. Good possibilities for marine fossils, varied geology, some hidden historic traces (whaling and trapping) from the last 400 years. Being reached and left by boat and therefore requiring no trekking with full personal gear, the Pointed Peaks Camp (offered as version F) is also an interesting option for travellers who do not want to carry a heavy pack over longer distances.

Day 20 (Wednesday): After Breakfast short hike and storing of the camp. In the afternoon, the fjord boat will pick up the group and, passing the neighbouring Ymer Bay with yet another glacier front, returns to Longyearbyen. Transfer to campsite.

Day 21 (Thursday): Breakfast at the campsite, then a day excursion is offered into the wilderness surroundings of Longyearbyen with transfer to/from start/end and in the evening back to the camping site.

Day 22 (Friday): Spare day at your own disposition, shuttle between camping site and settlement in the morning and in the evening. At the same time a reserve day in case of program delays/changes.

Day 23 (Saturday): After breakfast transfer to day excursion (hike) in the wilderness around Longyearbyen. In the evening, the group usually meets for a farewell meal in one of the restaurants, some even stay up during this short last night for enjoying the permanent daylight for a last time during this tour.

Day 24 (Sunday): A-, B-, F-. Most participants take the early morning planes from Longyearbyen southwards, some stay until the afternoon plane (usually no international flight connections available for this one).

... and the shorter varieties (10-17 days) of this program:

The detailed program for the complete maximal tour (= variety A, see above) gives already hints about where and when the shorter varieties (B, C, D, E and F) join or leave this maximal program. Here additional informations about the programs of these shorter varieties:

Birdcliff, Inland & Pointed Peaks (B) 17 days:

Adapted to arrival with scheduled flights at Longyearbyen in night Thursday/Friday. Day 1 as described above, but instead of leaving the fjord boat in Billefjord, B continues with the boat to the Birdcliff Camp, program from there like days 9-24.

Inner Icefjord and Inland (C) 17 days:

Days 1-15 as in variety A, day 16: Breakfast, time for own activities (transfers between campsite and Longyearbyen can be arranged as service), day 17: departure (extra night at camping site for departure on day 18

possible without surcharge). As the program of this variety sometimes has to be reversed, leading to a return to Longyearbyen only on Saturday, planning a departure from Spitsbergen already on Saturday can be risky.

Prices 2008 (not including flights, per person):

Billefjord Trekking (D) 10 days:

Days 1-7 as in variety A, on day 8 the group is picked up by boat at the Glacier Camp and returns to Longyearbyen during night to day 9. Day 9 (Saturday): Guided visit to the museum and time for own activities in Longyearbyen, hiking tour with guide in the afternoon. Day 10: departure day. Extra night at campsite without surcharge possible for departure on Monday.

Birdcliff and Inland (E) 10 days:

Adapted to arrival with scheduled flights at Longyearbyen in night Thursday/Friday. Day 1 as described above, but instead of leaving the fjord boat in Billefjord, B continues with the boat to the Birdcliff Camp, program from there like days 9-14 there as days 2-8 of this program. Day 9 (Saturday): Guided visit to the museum and time for own activities in Longyearbyen, hiking tour with guide in the afternoon. Day 10: departure day.

Longyearbyen & Pointed Peaks (F) 10 days:

This version is the least demanding physically, as all transfers with complete personal baggage are done by boat. Day 1 (Friday): Arrival Longyearbyen with scheduled flight in the night Thursday/Friday, being met by the guide. Night at the campsite and breakfast in the morning, then transfer to town, guidance around settlement and the nice museum, time for restaurant and shopping, first hiking tour into the surrounding wilderness in the afternoon. Days 2-10 like days 16-24 of the above described maximal program (A) with Pointed Peak Camp.

Detailed prices 2010 for all versions A-F (dates: see page 2)

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Icefjord Hiking & Trekking 24 days (A) , accomodation shared 4-person tent: | NOK 22000 |
| Surcharge per person, sharing tent between max. 2 persons: | NOK 3000 |
| Surcharge per person, single tent: | NOK 4500 |
| Birdcliff, Inland & Pointed Peaks 17 days (B) , accomodation shared 4-person tent: | NOK 14700 |
| Surcharge per person, sharing tent between max. 2 persons: | NOK 2200 |
| Surcharge per person, single tent: | NOK 3200 |
| Inner Icefjord & Inland 17 days (C) , accomodation shared 4-person tent: | NOK 14700 |
| Surcharge per person, sharing tent between max. 2 persons: | NOK 2200 |
| Surcharge per person, single tent: | NOK 3200 |
| Billefjord-Trekking 10 days (D) , accomodation shared 4-person tent: | NOK 10500 |
| Surcharge per person, sharing tent between max. 2 persons: | NOK 1500 |
| Surcharge per person, single tent: | NOK 2200 |
| Birdcliff & Inland 10 days (E) , accomodation shared 4-person tent: | NOK 7800 |
| Surcharge per person, sharing tent between max. 2 persons: | NOK 1500 |
| Surcharge per person, single tent: | NOK 2200 |
| Longyearbyen & Pointed Peaks 10 Tage (F) , accomodation shared 4-person tent: | NOK 9400 |
| Surcharge per person, sharing tent between max. 2 persons: | NOK 1500 |
| Surcharge per person, single tent: | NOK 2200 |

Please study also the general notes for all these programs from page 8 onwards !



Nordenskiöld glacier in the vicinity of Glacier Camp, in September

Camp Stays for photographers and Naturalists

Experience tells that ardent photographers and naturalists often do not really feel at home in regular hiking programs – usually taking heavy extra equipment with them (telescopes, cameras, tripods, lenses), which is not too pleasant to carry over longer distances, and furthermore usually preferring a slower pace with frequent stops for detail studies and photography, which may cause interest conflicts in normal hiking programs. For these special interests, we have reserved some of our camps both in the early and late season.

Early season: There is much bird life in the breeding colonies and a nice, spring-like atmosphere with interesting contrasts due to still a lot of snow higher up in the mountains, while down near the shore, vegetation is blooming up. Midnight sun is about at its highest, but at midday, the sun is nevertheless not as high as in lower latitudes, so photographers should not worry too much about “flat light” even at midday. Most popular: the birdcliff camp, which is usually accessible already by mid-June. From early July onwards, the Pointed Peak Camp offers great scenery of the pointed peaks west coast landscape and a very varied geology.

Late season: Our Glacier Camp is available for these special interests in the late season, when the sun sets briefly in late August with hours of colourful evening and morning light, being especially spectacular on the ice of the nearby calving ice front of Nordenskiöld glacier. Also possible in combination with Pyramiden.

The concept of these camp arrangements is adapted to the stated interests:

> All major transfers are done by boat, which makes the arrangements more expensive, but solve the transport problem for bigger equipment.

> Day excursions will be on purpose at a slow average pace, including lots of stops for detail studies and photography, and with a clear bias on photography, scenery and geomorphology, and with additional focusses on glacier (Pointed Peaks Camp and Glacier Camp), and on animals and botany (Birdcliff Camp).

Of course, compromises will still be needed between the different special interests, and environmental aspects have priority over personal interests.

The camps can also be very useful in combination with a ship cruise, especially as a pre-program, where you can do some basic studies and shots in peace, with more time on shore and less co-travellers, than on the land excursions during the cruise, which on the other hand then adds the variety, which is only possible in the Arctic on a cruise.

Apart from the above mentioned specific concept aspects, the general conditions described further down apply to these camp arrangements just as well as to the “normal” hiking programs.

Birdcliff Camp and Pointed Peaks Camp in early summer

The camps and their surroundings: The **Birdcliff Camp** area offers not only a superb scenic view over large parts of the various branches of Isfjord, but also an interesting geology (also visually) in its immediate vicinity due to very graphic magmatic intrusions (diabas/dolerite), dividing the slopes and forming also the nearby birdcliffs themselves. During the last years, the area got international fame due to findings of several fossils of marine sauruses (protected sites !). The birdcliff itself is the home for the breeding season of mainly common guillemots and also black guillemots and some puffins. On top of the cliffs, some barnacle geese are breeding and on the flatland behind, there are usually a few breeding longtailed scuas. Fulmars patrol along the coastline, and there is a number of waders, kittiwakes and glaucous gulls. The birdcliffs provide food also to some polar

foxes and indirectly by fertilisation also to Spitsbergen reindeer and grazing geese. Vegetation is especially rich around the birdcliffs, with brilliant contrasts between strong green the orange of the lichen species *xanthuria elegans* and the dark magmatic rocks.

While the landscape around the Birdcliff Camp represents mainly central to eastern Spitsbergen with almost horizontal sediment layers and more plateau-type mountains, the **Pointed Peak Camp** represents, as its name indicates, the alpine scenery of the west coast, where a young geological folding truly has created a dramatic “Spitsbergen” (translated: pointed peaks) with a phantastic mix of sharply rising mountain tops and glaciers. The camp is situated in innermost Trygghamna (“Safe Harbour”) near the front of Kjerulf Glacier and under a mountain ridge with almost upright sediment layers, leading to rock formations that resemble a mixture somewhere between the rugged back of a saurus and castle ruin walls. A number of relatively easy glacier hikes are possible, including a close approach to the calving front into the bay. Apart from the natural scenery, the area offers several traces of history, including the moss-covered bones of a walrus slaughter site and remains of both Russian and Norwegian trapper cabins. Alkhornet is one of the most impressive bird cliff rock walls in Isfjord.

The included fjord cruises (to/from camp) add a further perspective to the program, passing large parts of the spectacular scenery of Isfjord.

By reserving these departures to these special interests, there will be probably nobody, either, who complains impatiently about the slow photographers as everybody on these departures will have a similar wish: much time for their special interest without the urge of covering long distances on daily excursions. Therefore, there will be no special pre-planned daily program, either. Instead, the guide(s, depending on number of participants) will discuss the daily activities with the participants on a day-to-day basis. Due to safety questions (polar bear risk, etc.), some coordination will be needed, nevertheless. Also contemplative friends of nature are welcome, who do not want to have much activity, but just want to be at such a beautiful site for some days. For “normal” outdoor enthusiasts with less specialised interests, the excursions of this program may be too slow in pace – to these, we rather recommend our other hiking programs.

Program: Depending on the booked program version, the groups are met by the guide at Longyearbyen airport upon arrival with one of the night flights in the night Tuesday/Friday or the day flight arriving on Wednesday midday and shown to the campsite and the facilities there, with informations about the program for the following days. The order of program, whether to start on the cruise to the (first) camp on the first day, or first having 1-2 days for study excursions in the Longyearbyen area, will depend partly on the actual situation (fjord ice, weather, transport), which varies from summer to summer so early in the season. In case of the 13-days program, there will be at least one day between camps in Longyearbyen – useful not only for a shower at the campsite, but also for reloading batteries, etc.. Apart from an introduction to Longyearbyen, including a guided visit to the Svalbard Museum, the days are spent – both when based in Longyearbyen and in the camp - with 1-2 excursions per day with shorter hikes and numerous stops. On days based in camp, all chores are shared between all participants and joint meals are breakfast and evening meal (main meal of the day) in the camp, while participants take with them some snacks on the day excursions, where we do not prepare a hot meal out on excursions. On days in Longyearbyen, we have a joint breakfast on the campsite, take snacks with us on excursions, and in the evening, there will be an opportunity for having a meal in one of the restaurants. Light and weather are often better at “night”, so be prepared also for spontaneous changes of plans in favour of a “night” excursion (it is full daylight all around the clock !). One day of the program is at own disposal, to follow own interests individually in Longyearbyen.

Departures, duration and participants: In 2010, these arrangements for photographers and naturalists are offered as special arrangements on request – departures, duration, program and participants according to your interests, within the frame of what is possible.

Glacier camp for photographers and naturalists

Our glacier camp has one of the most spectacular settings of all our camps – on the bank of a glacier river, sheltered between ice-polished rock formations, which were still covered by glacier ice as recently as around 1970, and today’s impressive front of the Nordenskiöld glacier terminates into the bay just a few hundred metres away from the camp. The ice formations of the glacier edge, the front itself, which can be approached at very close distance, the fresh moraines and also the varied geology and geomorphology of the area make it a great place for geologists, glaciologists, geomorphologists and simply friends of grand arctic scenery. Lots of kittiwakes and some other seabirds feed in front of the glacier front, seals are no rare sight, and chances are good for observing a calving, the thunders of which can be heard and even felt over long distances. Driftice sculptures may be washed at the beach. In the late season, snow on the glacier has usually retreated maximally, making the ice structures more visible. The higher tops around may have a thin cover of brilliant white fresh snow already.

The included fjord cruises (to/from camp) add a further perspective to the program, passing large parts of the spectacular scenery of Isfjord, including Billefjord with its spectacularly structured rock faces. The abandoned Russian mining settlement of **Pyramiden** can be included as a strong and touching contrast both as a 2-hours stopover on the boat transfer or as an extension of the program with overnight stays there. in one of the boat

transfers as a touching and strong contrast to the arctic nature and as a base for further exploration of its interesting surroundings.

Program: The groups are met by the guide at Longyearbyen airport upon arrival with one of the night flights in the night Thursday/Friday and shown to the campsite and the facilities there, with informations about the program for the following days. Depending on the available boat transport, the transfer to the camp will be either on Friday or Saturday, return from the camp on Monday or Tuesday. Apart from an introduction to Longyearbyen, including a guided visit to the Svalbard Museum, the days are spent – both when based in Longyearbyen and in the camp - with 1-2 excursions per day with shorter hikes and numerous stops. On days based in camp, all chores are shared between all participants and joint meals are breakfast and evening meal (main meal of the day) in the camp, while participants take with them some snacks on the day excursions, where we do not prepare a hot meal out on excursions. On days in Longyearbyen, we have a joint breakfast on the campsite, take snacks with us on excursions, and in the evening, there will be an opportunity for having a meal in one of the restaurants. Light and weather are often better at “night”, so be prepared also for spontaneous changes of plans in favour of a “night” excursion (even though midnight sun / polar day ends around August 20th, there is surprisingly much light still all around the clock right into early September !). One day of the program is at own disposal, to follow own interests individually in Longyearbyen.

Departures, duration, details, participants: In 2010, this program is offered on your request as a special arrangement, adapted to your wishes within the frame of what is possible.

General points for all programs described here:

Flights: The program is adapted to arrival by plane with one of the flights arriving Longyearbyen around midnight Thursday/Friday (leaving Oslo and/or Tromsø on Thursday evening) – an exciting flight into the midnight sun (until August 20th, later dates still bright dawnlight all around the night). Extra days and other adaptations can be discussed (extensions are recommended at the end, when you are familiar with the area). As flights can be booked easily nowadays via internet and as many of our customers have own plans for their tour up and down to/from Spitsbergen, flights are not included, but we assist with tips for booking of flights.

Accommodation: At Longyearbyen Camping and in all our 5 wilderness camps, we use spacious base camp tents (conic shape, ground diameter 4m, middle height 2.6m) with a ground sheet covering most of the ground inside. We offer these tents for occupancy by 1-4 persons (see prices) and they are stored at the site of each camp in a depot to be set up / taken down by the group with arrival/departure. Occupation by persons of same sex cannot be guaranteed with 4- or 2-person tent. The coastal camps are set out by boat with the first group and taken back with the last group, while the Inland Camp is mainly supplied in winter by snowmobile. We provide insulation mats (10mm thickness, good quality, ca. 500g) to the participants to be taken along by them from camp to camp (alternatively, you can of course bring an own air mattress/thermarest) A personal sleeping bag has to be provided by you – summer temperatures are not as low as feared by some ! For the first/last night in Longyearbyen, also rooms can be rent.

Meals: Our usual routine on tour is to have a comfortable breakfast in the morning, be out on tour during the day and prepare together the main meal in the evening. For these meals, we have the provisions at the camps, brought out with the first group and returned with the last. This requires provisions with long durability. Cooking at midday would be too time-absorbing and often also a hindrance for longer excursions. Instead, we advise to bring along a few snacks for each day, fitting your personal taste – not a full meal but to avoid feeling hungry on excursions: some like muesli bars, others dried sausages or biscuits. In the depots, we have also a stock of chocolate (100g plates) as high-caloric excursion snacks, of which you are free to take 1-2 plates with you on excursion each day. If you have a thermos, you can also prepare a hot drink or soup in the morning to take with you on the excursion. All daily chores – preparing meals, fetching water, washing up, etc. – are shared, of course with instruction and assistance by the guide(s). On days in Longyearbyen, only breakfast is included in the tour price (except of early morning departures on last days – then no breakfast).

Included in prices: Accommodation as booked and use of the camps included in the program, all breakfasts except of last morning with very early flight departure, all evening meals in the camps except of Longyearbyen and Longyearbyen Camping, all mentioned car transfers in Longyearbyen, all cruises/boat transfer that are part of the regular program, English- and German-speaking and armed guide, participation on all excursions of the program, museum entry.

Not included in prices: travel to/from Spitsbergen, other meals than mentioned above, insurances, personal equipment/clothing, any medications/drugs, personal expenses.

Further conditions and requirements: Participants for this program must have good health which makes a need for medical assistance unlikely, and should be used to longer hikes in mountainous, pathless terrain. While the tours do not aim at trying to break sporty records, a basic fitness, agility and good balance is needed to be able to tackle more demanding stretches of terrain, including wading of wild streams and rivers with big stones, walking on loose scree slopes, snow slopes and on gravel and ice or through bog and morass. Daily hikes can be

between 10-25 km (and with up to 600 m up and down again) with full private gear (trekkings between camps), and 10-25 km (up to 1200m up and down again) on day excursions with day-packs.

Participants accept that the life in the tent camps is basic (no warm washing water, improvised toilet, improvised furniture) and that all participants have to take over their share in the daily chores (fetching water, cooking, washing up, setting up and taking down camps, carrying material between landing site and camp site, etc.).

For safety reasons (polar bears, etc.), all participants have to be close and within possible sight of an armed tour guide at any time when outside of the settlements (no small private excursions, etc. possible) and have to follow the instructions of the guide.

Participants have to bring along all required personal equipment, including sturdy hiking boots plus hiking rubber boots/wellingtons, a good rucksack of sufficient size, suitable sleeping bag, outdoor clothes for hiking in wild terrain with possible cold wind, rain and temperatures from –5 to +15 centigrades including spare clothes packed waterproof, personal first aid / drugs set, cutlery and plate(s)/cup, etc. For programs including the glacier camp and/or the Pointed Peaks camp, light crampons and hiking boots suitable for light crampons are required. While sufficient food is provided out on tour for preparing meals (breakfast and evening meal as main meal) and there is a large stock of chocolate bars in all camps for taking 1-2 bars on day excursions, it is recommended to bring along additional snacks for eating in the course of day excursions.

Participants are aware of and accept that the tour guides do not have a medical training exceeding basic first aid and that the available first aid equipment out on tour is limited, too (about as in a car first aid kit), while organising external help may be difficult and may take more than a day. Any problems arising, have to be solved first of all within and by the group. For legal reasons (risk of consequences of anaphylactic shock (life-threatening allergic reaction on drugs), guides are not allowed to hand out medication/drugs to participants.

Accordingly, each participant is strongly recommended to bring along a private set of medication/drugs, put together with assistance of the private doctor.

The only means of communication for emergency situations available on tours are a satellite personal locator beacon (indicating only its position to the rescue service once started – no further communication) and a signal pistol, while GSM cellphones are of only very local use.

Should a rescue operation be necessary, this requires almost always the use of expensive helicopter. Therefore, each participant must provide individual insurance cover (valid for Spitsbergen and the period of the tour) for search and rescue operations up to NOK 20,000.

The tour guides are entitled to exclude participants with the next opportunity and without compensation, who do not meet the physical or equipment demands (or where there is reason for fearing that participants may have problems with following parts of the program) or who refuse to integrate into the group or to follow the instructions of the guides or the regulations and laws valid for Svalbard (including environmental issues), etc..

Costs created by such an exclusion have to be covered by the excluded participant, while actual savings for Spitsbergen Tours as a result of such an exclusion will be refunded to the excluded participant.

Participants are aware of the fact that these programs are carried out in arctic wilderness, mostly in pathless terrain, which inherently bears risks due to accidents and possibly considerably longer waiting for help. While the tour operator has checked the basic routes of the programs over previous years, it is impossible to be acquainted with all route details in pathless terrain with quickly changing natural conditions and an according need to choose routes according to the conditions found rather than sticking to fixed routes. Accordingly, participants cannot expect from the tour leaders to be acquainted with the actual routes chosen in the course of the program.

For safety reasons, firearms and explosives are part of the equipment taken on the tour and it cannot be avoided completely that participants have access to these dangerous items. Participants are expected to abstain from handling/manipulating these items without clear consent of the responsible tour guide in each case.

Further logistics (storage, recharging, etc.): Equipment not needed out in the camp, can be stored with us on the campsite. On the campsite and usually also on the transfer boats, electricity is available (220 V, 2-pole european standard plugs) for connecting a battery charger, etc..

Booking: Bookings have to be done in writing (no fax, no e-mail, etc.), stating the booked tour (with category) and tour operator (including seat), names of the persons booked in, tour price and confirmation that the booked in persons are familiar with the booking and participation conditions and accept these as the basis for their participation and fulfill these. A booking received by us will be confirmed by a booking confirmation by us if possible, including an invoice.

Payment: For this program, an instant payment of 10 % of the tour price is due after having received the booking confirmation, the remaining payment is due one month in advance of the beginning of the tour (all dates refer to the date where we have actually received the payment on our stated account or in cash).

Cancellation: A cancellation of a booking is possible at any time by the tour participant, who can also provide a suitable replacement participant. In case of a cancellation by the participant, the following cancellation costs will be charged: More than 100 days before start of tour: 10 % of tour price, 99-35 days before start of tour: 25 % of tour price, 34-21 days before start of tour: 40 % of tour price, 20 or less days before start of tour: 60 % of tour price (also in case of not appearing for the start of the tour).