Franz Josef Land

July 4 - 19, 2018
To visit Franz Josef Land, the most northerly land in the Eastern Hemisphere and part of the Russian Arctic National Park, is to overcome numerous obstacles set by man and nature alike. There are only a few weeks each summer when the sea ice breaks up enough for visitors to reach it, and even then, access is strictly controlled by Russia. As a result, this vast frozen archipelago is alive with wildlife, offering some of the best Polar Bear, Walrus and whale viewing on Earth. It also packs an historical punch, as it was the site of several 19th-century polar explorations. Join Apex aboard the intimate, ice-strengthened Sea Spirit to explore this blue shimmering world of icebergs, mosses and seabird-mobbed cliffs. Search for Polar Bears feasting, frolicking and caring for their young; Belugas and Narwhals among the ice floes; and Arctic Foxes as they hunt on the wildflower-specked tundra in this most wild and rarely-seen land.

Expedition Overview
Itinerary

Wednesday, July 4: Arrive Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway
Arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of Spitsbergen, the largest island in Norway’s Svalbard archipelago. The most northerly major town in the world, Longyearbyen is located about 350 miles north of mainland Norway. Once here, stretch your legs on a walk past the colorful shops and cafés of this former mining town before returning to the hotel for a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers and expedition team. Dinner and overnight at the Radisson Blu Hotel.

Thursday, July 5: Embark Sea Spirit
This morning, tour the town of Longyearbyen including the small, but fascinating, Svalbard Museum. Enjoy lunch and time to explore the town before heading to the harbor in the late afternoon to board the Sea Spirit, your home away from home for the next 13 nights. Be sure to be on deck as the ship slips its moorings and sails through Isfjorden, with staggering views of Alkhornet mountain and the rugged coastal plains, still illuminated during these long summer days.

Friday & Saturday, July 6 & 7: Across Barents Sea
Sail around the south of Svalbard and across the Barents Sea toward Russia and Franz Josef Land. Enjoy lectures on the major figures in Franz Josef Land’s rich history of exploration, as well as the remarkable array of bird and marine life that thrives on these mainly uninhabited and fiercely-protected islands. Spend time on deck with expert naturalists and watch for ice-dependent marine mammals. Whales present in the area include Minkes, Belugas, Humpbacks, and, less frequently, Bowheads and Narwhals. Bearded, Ringed and Harp Seals abound. And, of course, the king of the ice, the majestic Polar Bear, reigns on the surrounding floes.

Photos: Bearded Seal, Humpback Whale Fluke, At Sea
Sunday–Saturday, July 8–14: Franz Josef Land
After an obligatory immigration stop at the Russian polar station Nagurskoye, we are free to explore the archipelago at our leisure for the next week. Weather and sea ice conditions will greatly determine our course. The Sea Spirit is small enough to fit in most waterways, and frequent Zodiac trips will offer the best chances to see Polar Bears, Walruses, reindeer and Arctic Fox. Scree slopes and cliffs around the islands host enormous nesting colonies of seabirds, including Brünnich’s and Black Guillemots, Northern Fulmars and Little Auks. Common Eiders, Purple Sandpiper, Arctic Skuas, Glaucous and Ivory Gulls, Arctic Terns and Snow Buntings nest on the flat tundra. The expedition team will take full advantage of the near 24-hour daylight to exploit every opportunity for wildlife viewing.

Nestled among this jaw-dropping realm of glaciers, moss-covered peaks and fields of Arctic poppies and saxifrages are several well-preserved historical sites, vestiges of Franz Josef Land’s many famed explorers. The adventures of Julius von Payer, Benjamin Leigh Smith, Frederick George Jackson, and Fridtjof Nansen come alive on Bell Island, Cape Floral and Tikhaya Bay, and crosses, gravestones and the remains of dwellings stand as memorials to their fascinating travels.

Sunday & Monday, July 15 & 16: Svalbard Cruising
After a thorough exploration of Franz Josef Land, cross back through the bountiful waters of the Barents Sea and along the coastal islands of the eastern Svalbard archipelago. Though less numerous than in Franz Josef Land, Walruses are beginning to re-colonize here, after being hunted nearly to extinction in the area. Set out on Zodiac excursions for a closer look at them, as well as bears and seals, weather permitting. Take the opportunity to enjoy a few last onboard lectures, as well.

Tuesday, July 17: West Spitsbergen
Take one last day to explore the spectacular fjords and coasts of western Svalbard. This area contains some of the archipelago’s most impressive scenery, with deep channels flanked by impossibly jagged peaks. Immense tidewater glaciers constantly calve icebergs. Fields of flowering tundra attract grazing reindeer and Arctic Fox. The whole area is alive with migratory birds. Among the historic sights are remnants of whaling camps, coal-mining operations, trappers’ cabins and the ruins of a WWII weather station.

Wednesday, July 18: Disembark in Longyearbyen / Oslo
Today, disembark the Sea Spirit in Longyearbyen and transfer to the airport for the flight to Oslo. Enjoy a farewell dinner and overnight at Oslo’s Radisson SAS Airport Hotel.

Thursday, July 19: Depart Oslo
After breakfast, a short walk takes you back to the airport for your international flights home.

Photos: Arctic Poppy, Polar Bears, Spherical Stones on Champ Island, Arctic Fox
Expedition Map - Franz Josef Land

A – Longyearbyen
B – Franz Josef Land
C – West Spitsbergen
D – Oslo

By Ship    By Air

Note: Map is intended for reference only. Actual routing and stops will be dependent on weather and sea conditions.
Russ Evans

A Falkland Islander, Russ has strong ties to the oceans and today spends most of his time at sea in various roles, but leading expeditions remains his first love. A sixth-generation Falkland Islander, Russ left the family farming enterprise to pursue a career crewing and skippering commercial work boats. An avid outdoorsman with a keen sense of place and a passion for wildlife and photography, Russ jumped at the chance to work as a general naturalist and Zodiac driver on an expedition cruise in 2003. The rest, as they say, is history, and Russ now leads small-ship expedition cruises all around the globe. He’s been known to delight even our veteran expedition team with his new ideas and exploratory landings.

Jonathan Rossouw

Jonathan Rossouw is one of the world’s most experienced expedition leaders, having guided wildlife trips in over 150 countries on all seven continents. He combines a legendary energy and enthusiasm with a broad knowledge of all aspects of natural history, gained from three decades spent in the pursuit of the world’s mammals, birds, reptiles and coral reef fishes. Indeed, having seen over 1,000 species of mammals, 8,500 species of birds and 2,000 coral reef fishes, he will likely experience more species of vertebrate animals than anyone in history! A medical doctor by training, Jonathan was born and raised on South Africa’s east coast. He started a birding travel company in South Africa before joining Peter Harrison and Shirley Metz, to assist in expanding their global portfolio of natural history destinations. An accomplished photographer, Jonathan’s images have appeared in many books and magazines, and he has co-authored birding site guides to Uganda, Southern Africa and Madagascar.

Kevin Clement

Not many people can say they have lived inside Alaska’s Denali National Park, but Kevin Clement is one. Nowadays, however, he spends most of his time guiding ecotourism and adventure travel trips on all seven continents. Kevin has served as the Denali Foundation instructor for natural history and as a trainer for the Park’s staff of naturalists. As a Certification Instructor for the Wilderness Education Association he led month-long outdoor leadership courses under the auspices of the University of Alaska. He has lived in several other national parks and has guided groups in whitewater rafts, on cross-country skis, by sled dog, and on foot, earning certifications in scuba diving, swiftwater rescue, and wilderness medicine, as well as a Coast Guard Master’s license. A veteran of over 100 voyages to the Antarctic, most recently Kevin has been coordinating and leading kayaking excursions in South Georgia and on the Antarctic Peninsula. Kevin also continues to draw and paint. His first career was as an illustrator and he never travels without his sketchbook. Or his sense of humor.
Shirley Metz

Shirley Metz's careers and accomplishments have spanned the globe. Shirley became a certified diver at age 16 and while at the University of Hawaii did shark research earning her degrees in Marine Biology and Communications. She met her first husband in Hawaii with whom she founded Hobie Sports. She also developed several active clothing lines and consulted to companies such as The North Face. In 1988 Shirley visited Antarctica and became inspired to work in Antarctic conservation. To raise awareness, she became a member of an international expedition that would attempt to ski 800 miles from the edge of Antarctica to the South Pole. On January 17, 1989, the nine-member expedition arrived at world’s end; Shirley made history and her way into the Guinness Book of Records as the first woman to ski overland to the South Pole. A member of the Explorers Club and The Society of Woman Geographers, Shirley continues to raise awareness and support for environmental and cultural projects.

Giovanna Fasanelli

A life-long love affair with the sea propelled Giovanna into the world of marine biology, conservation, underwater photography and natural history documentaries. Whilst completing her marine biology degree at Australia’s James Cook University, Giovanna worked at an underwater film company during which time she gained experience tagging Tiger Sharks and Green Turtles in the Coral Sea and assisting with film production. This opportunity spawned a decade-long career in television, presenting the latest developments in aquaculture and fisheries science. Though Giovanna's training is principally in the marine realm her passion for wilderness and animals has driven her to explore habitats around the world from Snow Leopards in the Himalayas to Komodo Dragons in Indonesia and Mountain Gorillas in Uganda. Fast approaching 100 countries visited, Giovanna has extensive experience as a guide and naturalist all over the world. A talented photographer and skilled writer, Giovanna’s work is regularly featured in several magazines.

Ingrid Nixon

Ingrid Nixon is a professional storyteller and former National Park Service ranger. She has worked in expedition tourism for three decades, sharing stories of exploration, folklore, and natural history, while leading groups and driving Zodiacs. In her 15 years with the National Park Service, she directed the interpretive and education programs at Denali and Mount Rainier national parks, and created the innovative science education and partnership program for the Denali-based Murie Science and Learning Center, which represents eight of Alaska's northern national parks. As an award-winning storyteller, Ingrid performs myths, tall tales, historical stories, folktales, and more at storytelling festivals and events throughout the United States, including the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN. With a degree in Broadcast Journalism, she has written, hosted and/or narrated numerous films about national parks and won several national awards for her work. Ingrid is putting the finishing touches on her masters in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University. She currently hails from the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.
Franz Josef Land onboard the Sea Spirit – 2018 Vessel Information

The 114-guest Sea Spirit is ideally suited for exploring the polar regions. Her ice-strengthened hull and maneuverability allow you to reach places inaccessible to larger ships. Her fleet of Zodiaks allow for landings on wild, untouched shores, while her supply of kayaks cater to the more active and adventurous explorers among us. The open bridge policy offers an opportunity to talk to the Captain and officers while watching the passing landscapes or fixing your location on the chart. Most meals are enjoyed in the dining room, there is no assigned seating and everyone onboard can be accommodated in a single seating. There is also an outdoor bistro, lounge, library and gym to enjoy during time at sea. The expedition style and atmosphere onboard is active, casual and engaged, with no need for formal clothing.

### Suite Categories

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### All Suites Include:

The Sea Spirit is an all-suite vessel with ocean views from either a private balcony, window or porthole. Deluxe Suites, Premium Suites and the Owner's Suite have private balconies, while all the suites offer the option of either a king or twin beds with fine cotton linens. Each suite has individual temperature controls, safe, refrigerator, and en suite facilities stocked with botanically-inspired hair products, soap, and shower gel, plus a hairdryer.
Deck Plan - Sea Spirit

MAIN DECK
Main Deck Suites
Restaurant
Infirmary

OCEAN DECK
Classic Suites
Oceanus Lounge
Reception

CLUB DECK
Superior Suites
Library
Club Lounge

SPORTS DECK
Deluxe Suites
Bridge
Hot Tub
Outdoor Bistro

SUN DECK
Premium Suites
Owner’s Suite

- Main Deck Suite
- Classic Suite
- Superior Suite
- Deluxe Suite
- Premium Suite
- Owner’s Suite
Expedition Details

Franz Josef Land onboard Sea Spirit
July 4 – 19, 2018

16 Days  Trip Length
Longyearbyen / Oslo  Start/End

Included
Included in the price of your Apex expedition are all accommodations as noted in the itinerary; meals, activities and excursions; all gratuities; flight Longyearbyen to Oslo on July 18; beer and wine with lunch and dinner onboard the vessel, and at group meals in Longyearbyen and Oslo, as noted in the itinerary; services of six Apex Expeditions leaders, as well as the full onboard lecture team and expedition staff; Emergency Evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US$100,000 per person; local guides; airport transfers; permits; entrance fees; and taxes.

Not Included
Not included in the price of your Apex expedition are airfare to Longyearbyen and home from Oslo; premium wines and liquors; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption is not included, but is highly recommended); airport departure taxes; passport, reciprocity and/or visa fees; excess luggage charges; items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.); kayaking; onboard services; and independent travel arrangements pre- or post-trip.

Payments & Terms
20% of the trip cost will confirm your place on the expedition. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. The solo rate is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the published solo rate will be charged. Upon confirming your reservation you will be required to pay the published Solo Rate, if we are able to pair you with a roommate, the applicable difference will be refunded at the time that the final trip payment is due for all participants. Please note that solo accommodations are limited and cannot always be guaranteed throughout. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com/about/terms-conditions/

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Reservation Form

Franz Josef Land onboard Sea Spirit
July 4 – 19, 2018

Person 1: (Primary Contact)
Passport Name:
Preferred Name:
Date of Birth:
Email Address:

Mailing Details:
Address:
City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ ZIP Code: ___________________________ Country: ___________________________
Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ___________________________

☐ Double  ☐ Solo  ☐ Cabin Category Preference ___________________________

Person 2: (If applicable and at same address, otherwise please submit a second Reservation Form.)
Passport Name:
Preferred Name:
Date of Birth:
Email Address:

Deposit Information:
☐ My deposit check is enclosed  ☐ My deposit check will be mailed separately
☐ Charge my deposit to my: ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express
Card #: ___________________________ Expires: ___________________________ CCV Code: ___________________________
Name on Card:
Signature:

Please return this completed form to Apex Expeditions.
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