

7-DAY ADVENTURE

ARCTIC FJORD KAYAK ADVENTURE

Svalbard

On this epic expedition, you will spend four days honing your sea kayaking skills as you explore the everchanging glacial waters of Billefjorden. Weave in and out of bays shaped by ancient ice over millions of years. Marvel as you take in the coloured layers of the rocks around you - each marking a different time from long ago. Camping under the midnight sun, hear the sound of the icebergs cracking as the horizon changes before our very eyes and we become fully immersed in this breathtaking environment. As day turns into night and the sun stays out, wrap yourself up warm as you take turns to sit on bear watch.

No previous experience of camping is required but you should have been kayaking before and be aware that we will paddle a total of 60km over the four days, so a good level of fitness and mental stamina is required.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend three nights camping under the midnight sun in the Svalbard wilderness
- Be one of very few on the water as you explore Billefjorden by sea kayak
- Go truly off-grid and back to basics in this untouched landscape
- Paddle to the towering Nordenskiöld Glacier


Petuniabukta
Nordenskold Glacier
Brucebyen
Skansebukta
Longyearbyen
Boat
Kayak
KANDOO ADVENTURES

ITINERARY

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN LONGYEARBYEN

Welcome to Longyearbyen! After collecting your luggage, make your way to the exit where you will see the airport shuttle waiting. The bus will stop right outside your guesthouse. After checking-in, you have the rest of the day to explore the town and find somewhere to sample some local cuisine. At 7pm, one of our team will come to the accommodation to meet the group and confirm arrangements for tomorrow.

Accommodation: **Guesthouse**

DAY 2

LONGYEARBYEN

You have time this morning to further explore the fascinating town of Longyearbyen and grab some lunch. At 2pm, you will meet your guide and the rest of your group to prepare everything for the start of your adventure tomorrow. This will include packing our kayaks, pitching our tents and using camp stoves, checking the weather, planning our route and understanding important safety protocols. Everyone must attend this preparation session. After this, you are free to explore Longyearbyen and grab a bite to eat.

Accommodation: **Guesthouse**
Meals included: **Breakfast**

DAY 3

KAYAK NORTH FROM SKANSEBUKTA

We will be leaving our accommodation early in the morning so, after an early breakfast, we will meet with our guide for a final kit check before we head off to the harbour. It takes up to 6 hours (depending on the boat) to get to the colourful bay of Skansebukta, deep inside the fjord of Isfjorden. Wrap up warm and stand on deck to get the full experience! Everything calms as we slow down to land on the silent coastline and the start of our kayaking expedition. We will spend the next few days kayaking in Billefjorden, a fjord within a fjord, which is a veritable rainbow of colours from the blues of the water to the multi-coloured layers of the mountains. Keep your eyes peeled for reindeer or Arctic fox as we hug the coastline and reach our final stop for tonight. The work doesn't stop there! Now we all work together to set up camp and make dinner before settling down for our first night under the midnight sun and fist shift on polar bear watch.

Transport: **Local boat (4 - 6 hours)**
Activity time: **3 - 4 hours**
Accommodation: **Camping**
Meals included:
Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 4

KAYAK TO PETUNIABUKTA

The next morning, after a filling breakfast and plenty of fresh coffee, we break camp and repack our kayaks before heading deeper into the fjord. The landscape changes before our eyes as we paddle underneath the shadow of ancient mountains and catch a first glimpse of the mighty Nordenskiöld Glacier. Tonight we will camp in the ever-peaceful Petuniabukta, take our turn on polar bear watch and reflect on the magnificence of this truly unique experience.

Activity time: **5 - 6 hours**
Accommodation: **Camping**
Meals included:
Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 5

KAYAK TO NORDENSKOLD GLACIER

Today is a real trip highlight as we make our way to the enormous tidewater glacier, Nordenskiöldbreen. Named after the Arctic explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld. As we paddle closer, feel the temperature drop as we navigate our way around and between ice calved from this towering glacier. Bearded seals can be found in this area so keep your eyes peeled!. We leave the glacier and end today's journey at Brucebyen, a tiny outpost leftover from coal mining companies of yesteryear. Tonight will be our last night camping and final shift on polar bear watch.

Activity time: **5 - 6 hours**
Accommodation: **Camping**
Meals included:
Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

DAY 6

KAYAK SOUTH AND RETURN TO LONGYEARBYEN

After packing our kayaks for the final time, today is a final chance to soak up the sights and sounds of this remote, wilderness environment. As we kayak south, towards the entrance of the fjord, the landscape softens as we leave the rugged mountains behind us. Stay on the look out for one last sighting of a beluga whale or bearded seal before we break for lunch and are collected by the local boat for our journey back over the crystal clear waters of Isfjorden to Longyearbyen. Tonight you can reflect on your trip on this once in a lifetime experience.

Activity time: **3 - 4 hours**
Accommodation: **Guesthouse**
Meals included: **Breakfast / Lunch**

DAY 7

DEPARTURE FROM LONGYEARBYN

Depending on your flight time, have the morning to relax and explore Longyearbyen and its 'edge of the world' atmosphere. Visit Svalbard museum or choose from a variety of optional activities such as guided hikes around Longyearbyen and the surrounding area (additional costs apply). The airport shuttle stops just outside the guesthouse and will take you the short journey to the airport for your departure flight.

PLEASE NOTE

It is in the nature of a trip of this kind that arrangements and participants have to be flexible. While we use all reasonable endeavours to ensure a trip runs according to your itinerary, the day-to-day agenda and ultimate goal of the trip are taken as aims and not as contractual obligations. It is a necessary condition of your joining any of our trips that you accept this flexibility. Occasionally, we may have to make changes and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

TRIP INFORMATION

DIFFICULTY

Although the kayaking is not highly demanding, we have rated this trip as level 4 due to the non-stop nature of the expedition.

You can expect to kayak up to 20km a day and take part in hikes at some of the places we will camp. In good weather the kayaking can feel easy, but if you encounter strong winds, waves, rain or freezing conditions, it will feel very different.

As well as kayaking and hiking, you will also be packing away and putting up tents, assisting with cooking, loading and unloading kayaks and fetching water. There are no porters, cooks or waiters on this trip and everyone on the expedition is expected to do their share of the work. Although this makes the adventure more demanding, it also adds to the enormous sense of satisfaction and achievement at the end of your journey.

We are camping in the wilderness where there is the possibility polar bears roaming near the camp. During the night, a member of the group must be on "bear watch" at all times and this is usually done in rotating 2 hour shifts. This trip takes place during Svalbard's summer months when it is daylight all the time which can make it difficult to sleep. We definitely recommend taking an eye mask!

Previous kayaking experience is required for this trip. If you are interested in the trip but have limited or no kayaking experience, we recommend taking some kayak training to cover the basics and getting out in a boat before you start the trip.

FOOD & DRINK

Staying well-fed on your trip is absolutely vital to keep up energy levels, so that you can enjoy your activities. This adventure in Svalbard is full board apart from your evening meals in Longyearbyen. We are proud of the fresh and frankly delicious food we provide despite being in such a remote location. Because everything we need for this adventure must be brought over on our initial boat journey, we are limited on what we can carry and must choose our ingredients carefully. Fresh produce is used nearer the start of the trip with the more basic foodstuffs such as pasta and rice used towards the end.

Your help in the kitchen is expected and much appreciated, particularly in the evenings with food prep and washing up. We like the whole group to work as a team to cook dinner, it creates a pleasant atmosphere as we reflect on the days
adventures together.

You will have access to safe drinking water throughout this trip. All water collected will be boiled and then cool so you can use this to fill your reusable bottles.

Alcohol and cigarettes are heavily taxed and expensive in Scandinavia. If you plan on bringing either of these into Svalbard, they must be left in the storage in Longyearbyen as they are not permitted on the expedition.

ACCOMMODATION

Your full day-by-day itinerary shows what is included in terms of hotel accommodation and meal basis. LONGYEARBYEN: Warm, comfortable, guesthouse accommodation in twin rooms. Shared bathroom and kitchen facilities with heating and hot water. Although these aren't en-suite, there are plenty of bathrooms available per floor of the accommodation and these are modern facilities kept to an extremely high cleanliness. There is also a bar and restaurant serving simple dishes available on premises and it is roughly a 30 minute walk into the town.

CAMPING: We provide a comfortable expedition tent per 2 people, a foam sleeping mat and a sleeping bag suitable to the Arctic conditions. For our expeditions we use light equipment which is appropriate for Svalbard's conditions. We will also provide a larger tent for cooking and eating, all cooking equipment and fuel. Please be aware that our adventures in Svalbard involve full participation. You are joining an arctic expedition and will need to do your share of the work, this will include pitching tents, fetching water and preparing meals. There are no porters or chefs up here in the frozen north, this is adventure in its purest form!

At all times while camping in Svalbard, there is the possibility of polar bears roaming near the camp. "Bear watch" is shared amongst everyone in the group in 2 hour shifts. Your guide will provide instruction on what to do if you see a bear and how to use any equipment provided.

TOILETS: In Longyearbyen your accommodation will have flushing toilets. Whilst camping, a designated toilet area will be setup somewhere private at each campsite. We can guarantee it will be the most scenic, exciting toilet break you've ever had! We provide toilet paper and a lighter to burn paper after use.

YOUR GUIDE

All of our qualified guides are highly experienced locals who have have been working in this environment for many years.

Once you are on your trip, you should speak to your lead guide about any problem, whether it relates to food, equipment or health. We would much prefer you to sort out any problems with them on the spot, rather than allow them to spoil your trip. Your guide is in contact with the office if further assistance is required.

If the lead guide is the source of your concern, you will have the opportunity to speak to one of the office representatives when you return to the guesthouse.

TRANSPORT

We insist on using a high standard of vehicle and driver for all of our transfers. In Europe, it is a legal requirement to have seatbelts fitted in the back of vehicles. If you are unhappy about any aspect of the vehicle or the standard of driving, please speak to the driver or our local office immediately.

This trip involves transfers by boat between Longyearbyen and Billefjorden. These transfers are provided by a local company and all safety equipment is provided.

LUGGAGE

You may bring a hold bag (up to 15kg) as well as a cabin bag. If you prefer to travel with a suitcase, this is not a problem for this trip as these can be stored in our warehouse whilst you are on your trip. There is limited space in the kayaks and you will not be able to bring multiple changes of clothes with you, rather pack sensible layers and bring drybags to pack everything and keep it dry. Your sleeping bag will also be packed in a drybag and stored inside your kayak. If you have questions about packing for this trip, please give us a call to discuss it in more detail. There are no rental shops in Longyearbyen but you will be able to visit shops if there are any items you are missing. Please be aware that the prices in Svalbard are usually pretty high.

Along with your own luggage, the boats will also be packed with all camping equipment, including tents, sleeping mats, sleeping bags, cooking equipment and food for the duration of the expedition

HOW DO I GET THERE?

To reach Longyearbyen, there are direct flights from Oslo (3 hr journey). Some flights are direct and others will land in Tromso on Norway's west coast and you will be asked to disembark to go through the Svalbard immigration before re-embarking on the plane once more and continuing your journey. This means that you will be flying at a low altitude when passing over the jaw dropping Lofoten islands. If you wish to get a birds eye view of these out of the plane window then make sure to be seated on the left hand side of the plane for both the outgoing and return flight. Direct flights do not operate every day of the week so you may also need to spend a night in Oslo before continuing your journey the next day.

To reach Oslo from the UK, there are direct flights with British Airways from Heathrow and Norwegian Airlines have direct flights from Gatwick and Edinburgh. SAS have direct flights from Manchester.

If you are travelling from the US, SAS operate direct flights to Oslo from New York. From the west coast there are good flight options with Air France, KLM and Lufthansa.

If you are changing airlines or re-checking your luggage at an airport on route, please ensure you leave a minimum of 3 hours between flights. This will account for any delays on arrival, travel time across airports (this can take longer than you think) and time taken to re-check baggage.

ON ARRIVAL

Once you have landed and collected your luggage, make your way to the exit where you will find the airport shuttle bus waiting. The shuttle buses are scheduled to match flight arrivals and leave the airport either 30-40 minutes after the flight has landed or when the luggage belt is empty. The transfer costs 125NOK and payment is made by card. The shuttle will stop right outside your guesthouse accommodation. Check you r itinerary for the address. You can find more information on:
https://svalbardbuss.no/en/airport-shuttle/

PRE-TREK BRIEFING

It is a requirement of joining any of our trips that you attend a briefing before the trip begins. This gives our guide the opportunity to review the plans for the trip with you, make sure you have all the right gear and answer any questions you may have. This will take place in the afternoon of day 2 at 2pm. One of our team will meet the group at 7pm on day 1 at the hotel to confirm arrangements for the following day.

BUDGET & CHANGE

The currency in Svalbard is the Norwegian Krone (NOK).

Please be aware that Svalbard is nearly cash free due to the absence of banks. Payments are made with credit or debit cards so it is important you take a card with you for any incidental purchases. Please inform your card provider that you intend to travel to Svalbard (Norway) before departure, this will ensure that your card continues to work properly while overseas. A lunch in Longyearbyen will cost you roughly £20 (265 NOK) and dinner will be £30 (350 NOK). Therefore, our recommended guidance for spending budget in the Svalbard would be roughly £100-150 (1300-2000 NOK) on top of any tips, to give you ample souvenir spending money.

TIPS

Tipping customs vary all over the world and can be very confusing when travelling to a new country. Tipping in Svalbard is always appreciated, however it is not obligatory and should be left to the discretion of each individual. If you are satisfied with your guide's services we recommend a tip between 350-450 NOK per person. As Svalbard is almost cashless, PayPal is the preferred method of tipping.

FORMALITIES & HEALTH

PASSPORT

Most travellers require a passport that is valid for at least six months after the return date. It is your responsibility to confirm your specific passport requirements and please be aware that proof of onwards travel may be required. You can check your requirements on the website provided by the Norwegian government

VISA

Travelling to Norway is visa free for up to 90 days, for UK and US citizens. Please be aware that the new EES (Entry Exit System) is now active for all Non-EU nationals. This means your biometric data (photo and fingerprints) will be taken at the border on arrival. Those travelling from the UK may have have their biometric data taken at the time or boarding, rather than on arrival in the EU.

VACCINATIONS

No vaccinations are required.

INSURANCE

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fully and adequately insured for the duration of your trip. Please ensure that all activities, excursions and destinations in your itinerary are included in your travel insurance policy, in addition to your regular cover for cancellation and medical expenses.

We ask that you keep a copy of your policy summary (containing policy number and the emergency contact number for your insurer) in your day sack at all times, so that we can access this information should we need to contact the insurer on your behalf.

OTHER INFORMATION

Departure transfers in Svalbard are not included with the trip but are really easy to arrange yourself. The airport shuttle bus timetable matches all flights and the friendly staff at your guesthouse will help you plan your departure transfer. Simply let them know the flight you are taking and they will tell you the time of your transfer. The transfer costs 125NOK and payment is made by card once you are onboard.

If you prefer, we can book taxis for your transfers for an additional cost. Please let us know at the time of booking.

EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY KANDOO ADVENTURES

We will provide you with all of the technical equipment you will need for this amazing adventure. Our tandem sea kayaks were chosen for their stability, comfortable seating and storage capacity for our expedition gear. In the unlikely event of capsize, they are surprisingly easy to right; even at sea you would be back on board and paddling in no time.

GROUP EQUIPMENT

- Emergency beacon
- Larger tent for cooking and eating
- Satellite phone
- Rifle
- Flare guns

INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

- Suitable 2 man expedition tent
- Foam sleeping mat
- Drysuit
- Personal floatation device
- Pogies
- Kayak shoes
- Paddles
- Tandem sea kayak with directional rudder (per 2 people)
- Suitable synthetic sleeping bag

CLOTHING TO BRING

HEADGEAR

- Warm beanie style hat – knitted or fleece and preferably windproof
- Neck gaiter or scarf - useful for keeping the sun off your neck and staying warm
- Sun hat or peaked cap
- Sunglasses - high UV protection
- Buff

UPPER BODY

- Thermal base layer x 2 (preferably merino wool)
- Waterproof hard-shell jacket (gore-tex or similar)
- Fleece or jumper (mid-layer to go under drysuit)
- Insulated jacket - down or primaloft (to wear at camp)
- Water and windproof hard-shell outer jacket (Gore-tex or similar)
- Gloves - warm fleece or wool gloves
- Thick warm layer (fleece or wool) to wear at camp
- Warm liner mittens
- Waterproof outer mittens

LEGS

- Breathable, fast-drying underwear (no cotton)
- Thermal base layer x 2
- Trekking trousers
- Wind and waterproof hard-shell over-trousers (Gore-tex or similar)

FEET

- Hiking boots with ankle support
- Thin warm socks (wool is preferable)
- Warm, thick socks (wool is preferred)

EQUIPMENT TO BRING

- Sleeping bag liner
- Water bottle, preferable wide-mouthed and must be able to carry at least 1L of water
- Mini-toiletry kit, wet wipes and small bags for any rubbish (toilet paper is provided)
- Camera and spare batteries
- Personal medication
- Drybags (10-20 litres) minimum of 2 - these will be used to store your things in the kayaks, including your sleeping bag and should be fully waterproof
- Suncream
- Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothing
- small micro-fibre towel
- Lotion for dry, cracked skin

GEAR RENTAL

There are no rental shops in Longyearbyen but it is possible to purchase items if you have not brought them with you. Please be aware that buying clothing or equipment in Svalbard will be expensive. Please ask us if you have any questions about clothing and equipment for this trip.

HOW TO BOOK THIS TRIP

1 CHOOSE YOUR DATE AND CHECK AVAILABILITY

A full list of available dates can be found on our website.

2 CONTACT US

Contact us by phone, email or through our website. We will answer any questions you may have and send you a personalized itinerary and quote.

3 COMPLETE BOOKING AND PAYMENT

When you are ready to book, we will send you a link to our online booking forms and participation agreements. We accept all major credit and debit cards and require a low 20% deposit to secure your place.