









The Northern Sea Route or the Northeast Passage is one of the greatest waterways in the world and, at the same time, the shortest one — between the European part of Russia and the Far East. Whales and walruses, snow owls and polar bears, musk oxen and reindeer will meet you on the way, which has being explored since the XVI century.

# **Experiences you'll have**

## A cruise along the Northeast Passage

The Northern sea route is an absolutely unique route. Previously, mainly cargo ships, that can cope with the ice of the Arctic ocean, could pass this way.

Nowadays this path has become available for tourists. However, comfortable expeditionary vessels go along the North sea route only once in 2 years. The next cruise is scheduled for 2022.

This cruise is the most complete tourist route along the Northern Sea Route. For almost a month you will voyage in cold waters of the Arctic and Pacific Oceans, pass through 5 seas and cross the whole of Russia from east to west.

According to the British travel magazine <u>Wanderlust</u>, this itinerary is in the Top 20 of most interesting cruises in the world

#### 5 reasons to choose this cruise:

while landing on uninhabited islands you can see walruses, polar bears, whales, musk oxen, reindeer, and huge colonies of sea birds

you will visit the northernmost territory on the planet – Franz Josef Land, as well as the reserve on Wrangel Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

reach Dezhnev cape – the easternmost point of Eurasia walk along the famous "Whale Alley" – a unique monument of ancient Eskimos culture and the archaeological site of international importance

get acquainted with the cuisine, life and culture of Chukchi people

The cost depends on the type of cabin. Find out more in the "Accommodation" section.

Learn more about the discovery of the Northern Sea Route in our blog

<u>→</u>

Photo by Sergey Dolya

# **Itinerary**

The journey starts in Anadyr, which you must travel to on your own. We can help with the purchase of tickets. If necessary, leave a comment on the application.

Please, note that the cruise on September 4-30, 2022 follows the return route: from Murmansk to Anadyr.

You can also join the expedition in Nome, Alaska and have a charter flight to Anadyr, where you will join the ship and the expedition members who have travelled direct to Anadyr.

You should arrive in Nome before midday and preferably the previous night. On arrival, you should check in with Bering Air at Nome Airport who will have details of our charter flight. During this flight you will cross the International Date Line, arriving into Anadyr on Day 1 of the expedition. You will clear Russian Customs and Immigration.

These expeditions are subject to approval from various Russian Federal and Regional Authorities and may have to change depending on these approvals. Permits have been lodged for all the sites mentioned in the itinerary, depending on approvals these may have to be amended or substituted. We will endeavor to keep participants fully informed of any changes in the itinerary as and when they occur.

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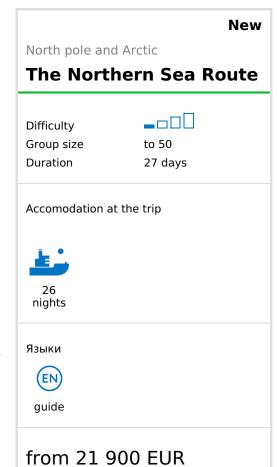
## Day 1

## Having arrived to Anadyr, you will board the ship. Here you

will get acquainted with the crew and expedition personnel, who will arrange a tour of the ship, show the cabins, and present a safety briefing.

As the ship crosses the Gulf of Anadyr, there will be

opportunities for seabirds, marine mammal watching and lectures.



## On the second day of the journey you will explore the coast

of the Preobrazhenskaya Bay by zodiac boat. You can see the hatchets, puffins and guillemots on the coastal rocks.

Day 2

#### Whale Bone Alley on Yttygran Island is one of the most

significant and intriguing archaeological sites in the Arctic. The name comes from the large number of whale jaw bones spread along the beach in the form of a pathway. The site dates to the 14th century and its origins and purpose are debated.

#### If the weather is suitable, you will go by the zodiac boats in

search of grey whales. Along the way you will visit the Nuneangan island (the "bird island"), where many seabirds nest. This afternoon landing the Gilmimyl hot springs is planned. For reaching them you have a short walk across the tundra.

Day 3

#### Early in the morning the ship will approach the

easternmost point of Eurasia — Cape Dezhnev. If the weather is good you could see the coast of America from that point. Walking along the rocky beach, you will come to the abandoned border base and the monument to Semyon Dezhnev. It is believed he was the first European to sail through Bering Strait in 1648.

## This afternoon you will visit Uelen village to enjoy the

hospitality of the local Chukchi people and watch a folk performance. You will also taste the local cuisine and visit their bone-carving studio which is famous throughout Russia.

Day 4

## Today it is planned to land (weather permitting) the

Kolyuchin Island, where there is an abandoned Polar research and weather station. There are also some terrific bird cliffs where it is possible to get some great photos of puffins, guillemots and gulls. Sometimes humpback whales and greenland whales are also seen here.

Day 5

## The Wrangel island is a Federal Nature Reserve of

international significance and importance and also a World Heritage Site. It is a major Polar Bear denning area. It is also the last landfall for migratory species flying north.

## Time, ice and weather permitting we will make as many

landings as possible in search of a snow owl and a snow-white goose, white gulls, musk oxen and the reindeer herds. On the protected Wrangel island you will see all the variety of Arctic landscapes — from the flowering tundra to the rocky cliffs with many birds.

Day 6

## This sea occupies the area between the Novosibirskie

Islands and Wrangel Island. Three of Siberia's major rivers, the Indigirka, Alazaya and the Kolyma, flow into it. The average depth is only 54 metres making it ideal habitat for the pacific walrus and bowhead whales, which you will be watching here.

## It was in this region that the Soviet vessel Chelyuskin,

under the command of Otto Schmidt and with 111 people on board became trapped in ice and sank in 1934. The dramatic rescue that followed gained international attention and made Schmidt a household name in Russia.

#### The Aion island is located in the Chaunskaya Bay. The

village is home to a small group of Chukchi reindeer herders. You will enjoy their hospitality and learn about reindeer herding.

Day 8

#### There are no permanent settlements on these little known

and seldom visited islands. They are covered in tundra and known to have a good population of Polar Bears. Locals from the nearby Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) visit during the summer months to go fishing and search for Mammoth tusks.

#### On the Chetyrehstolbovy island you will see the cliffs of

unusual shape. On Pushkarev's island you will visit the old lighthouse and admire the Arctic flowers.

Day 9

#### It was in this sea that the Jeanette, captained by George

Washington De Long, became stuck fast and was crushed by ice in 1879. The men made their way from the sinking ship in open boats to the Kolyma River delta where many of them perished. Wreckage from the Jeanette found in Greenland in 1884 gave Nansen the idea for the now famous Fram Expedition.

**Day 10** 

## These islands which consist of three major groups —

Southern, Central (Anzhu) and Northern (De Long) – mark the border between the Laptev and East Siberian Seas. Sometimes scientists come here to researching purposes. There are also meteorological stations. You will make several landings to get acquainted with the fragile nature of the Arctic.

## On days 15-16 you will explore the Laptev sea coast near

the Taimyr Peninsula. A special kind of walrus and a Taimyr silver seagull can be watched here.

**Day 11** 

## The Severnaya Zemlya Islands translated into English

mean 'Northern Land'. They are on the border of the Kara and Laptev Seas and are an extension of the Taimyr Peninsula. These islands were not discovered until 1914 -15 when Russian explorer Vilkitski originally named them "Emperor Nicholas 11".

## The islands are heavily glaciated with deep fiords and

majestic glaciers, providing a magnificent environment for cruising. There is also a great selection and abundance of Arctic wildlife including Polar Bears, Arctic Foxes, Arctic Hares and walruses.

**Day 12** 

## Two of Russia's greatest rivers, the Ob and the Yenisei

flow into the Kara Sea, which is one of the coldest seas in Russia. It lies between Novaya Zemlya, Franz Josef and the Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago. If the weather allows, you will make a landing on the Vise island.

**Day 13** 

## This huge archipelago of 192 islands located only 10

degrees from the North Pole offers many locations to explore. The islands were named in 1870 after the Hungarian Emperor when they were discovered by the Austro-Hungarian Payer-Weyprecht expedition that was searching for the NE Passage.

## Multiple landings are planned here including Cape

Flora/Northbrook Island, where the remains of three historic expeditions are found. Champa Island and Tikhaya Bay on Hooker Island where the numbers of seabirds on Rubini Rock are unforgettable. You can watch polar bears, belugas bowhead whales, and even narwhals.

**Day 14** 

## The Barents Sea is bounded by the north coast of Europe

to the west, Franz Josef and Nova Zemlya to the north and east. It was named in honor of Dutch seafarer and navigator, Willem Barents, who explored this region on expeditions in 1594 and 1596.

#### These two days will be used to complete our lecture series

and recaps as well as keep a look out for marine mammals and of course seabirds.

**Day 15** 

You will disembark the ship in Murmansk. You will be taken

to the airport, where you will go home.

# Accomodation at the trip

**You will travel with the "Spirit of Enderby" ship.** It is a small expedition ice-class vessel. It was fully refurbished for the comfortable accommodation of 54 passengers. It is specially equipped for expedition travel in areas where navigation of larger ships is not possible.

Onboard there is a bar, a restaurant, a cozy library lounge area with a large collection of thematic literature and a dedicated lecture room. A spacious bridge is always open for passengers. You can also view sea animals from open decks. All cabins have ocean views.

## The cost of the cruise depends on the type of cabin:

## Double cabin accommodation — 21 900 USD pp

The cabin has two lower berths. A desk, bookshelf, 2 closets, washbasin, porthole. The shared toilet/shower is on the deck.

## Superior cabin accommodation — 23 900 USD pp

There are two sleeping berths — one lower and one upper one. A desk, a wardrobe and drawers, as well as a private bathroom with a shower, a toilet, a washbasin. There is a window in the cabin.

## Superior Plus cabin accommodation — 26 900 USD pp

There are two lower sleeping berths in the cabin. A desk, a wardrobe and drawers, as well as a private bathroom with a shower, a toilet, a washbasin. There is a window in the cabin.

## $\label{eq:mini-Suite} \mbox{Mini-Suite accommodation} - \mbox{27 900 USD pp}$

This cabin has a separate bedroom with a double bed and a lounge with a sofa, a TV, a wardrobe and drawers. It also has a private bathroom with a shower, a toilet, a washbasin. There is a window in the cabin.

## Heritage Suite accommodation — 29 900 USD pp

There is a bedroom with a double bed and a large lounge area with a sofa, a TV, a mini-fridge, a wardrobe and drawers. A private bathroom includes a shower, a toilet, a washbasin. Large forward and side-facing windows allow a great panoramic view.

The cost is per person.

# **FAQ**

## Who will be my guide

The crew of the ship is Russian-speaking, there are both Russian and English speaking guides. The lectures are presented in English.

## Meals

During expedition you will have full board: breakfast — buffet, lunch — main course, salad and dessert, dinner — main course, vegetables and dessert. An alcoholic menu is available for lunch and dinner.

Cooks can prepare a menu according to your diet, if you inform in advance in writing.

#### Insurance

Medical insurance is a mandatory condition for participation in the tour. Insurance is not included in the basic cost and is about \$160.

If you regularly take any medications, please make sure that you have enough of them for the duration of the trip and before returning home.

Passengers with disabilities and those who require a special medical care must notify the cruise organizer in advance in writing form. Such passengers are better to travel with a companion who could carry out a proper care, because the crew team does not provide such services. If you have not notified about these conditions in advance, the organizer has the right to refuse to participate in the tour.

## What to bring with me

## Personal equipment required

When choosing clothes and shoes, consider the features of the cruise. The temperature on the Northern route points can drop to  $0^{\circ}$ C.

**Clothing:** warm pants, waterproof pants, thermal underwear, sweater, turtleneck, wool cap, covering ears, balaclava/scarf, warm socks, waterproof windproof jacket with hood. At the last retirement party you can bring dressy clothes (heels not advised).

**Shoes:** boots with a grooved sole will allow you to stand most steadily; rubber boots are necessary, but they can be given on the first day of the cruise for free. If you plan to take your own boots, they should be up to mid-calf or higher with a thick ribbed non-slip sole. In some landings will have to step into the water to a depth of 25 cm. Also on the ice and on the shore can be quite slippery. Make sure the boots sit comfortably on a woolen sock, it is important to bring warm insoles. In addition, you need sandals, sneakers or any other comfortable shoes for the ship and slippers for the shower.

**Other:** a small backpack for landings (preferably waterproof), warm and waterproof gloves, sunglasses, cream, chapstick, binoculars, earplugs.

**Documents:** passport, boarding pass on board (issued or sent by mail Manager), plane ticket, copy of insurance.

# **Booking**

North pole and Arctic

## The Northern Sea Route

New

Difficulty
Group size to 50
Duration 27 days

Accomodation at the trip



26 nights

## from 21 900 EUR

## What's included in the price:

shipboard accommodation in the cabin of the selected type

## **Extra charge:**

international/domestic flights

- meals (full-board)
- pre/post cruise transfers
- all expedition shore excursions
- $\boldsymbol{-}$  lectures and expedition guides' presentations
- private charter flight from Nome to Anadyr and back (+1400 USD per person/one way, optional)
- port charges (+500 USD per person)
- visa
- travel insurance
- drinks
- laundry service







