

# VIP Cruise to Wrangel Island

An Expedition to the Land of Polar Bears



Wrangel Island — known as the “maternity ward” of polar bears — is one of the most remote and hard-to-reach places in Russia. This season, we have made this land more accessible and the journey to it truly comfortable. Join an exclusive RussiaDiscovery cruise and explore Chukotka aboard a new 5-star expedition ship.

# Experiences you'll have

This is the most comfortable expedition to Wrangel Island. Each day, you will land on pristine shores accessible only by sea. Spend three full days in the Wrangel Island Reserve, exploring its tundra and Arctic landscapes. Encounter polar bears, walruses, whales, and musk oxen. Visit Chukchi and Siberian Yupik settlements, and immerse yourself in the region’s ancient culture.

In the evenings, you will return to your luxurious ship to relax in the sauna, unwind by the fireplace in a cozy lounge, or admire sweeping Arctic views from your private balcony.

You will also enjoy onboard lectures by leading regional experts, who will share insights into the wildlife, history, and culture of Chukotka and Wrangel Island.

**Expedition Highlights:**

- Polar bear encounters — witness the “kings of the Arctic” in one of Russia’s best polar bear habitats, where nearly 400 cubs are born each year
- Luxury at the edge of the world — sail aboard a 5-star expedition ship with restaurants, a pool, a fitness center, and other first-class onboard facilities
- Cape Dezhnev — stand at the easternmost point of the Eurasian continent
- Arctic wildlife — spot whales, walruses, musk oxen, and vast colonies of seabirds
- Whale Bone Alley — explore a mysterious ancient Yupik cultural site lined with massive whale bones
- Hot springs — unwind in natural thermal pools surrounded by the untamed beauty of Chukotka’s landscapes

# Itinerary

The journey begins in Anadyr. We can assist with purchasing tickets — please leave a comment in your application if needed.

This is the general plan of the expedition; the route may vary.

**Day 1**

**Today you will arrive in Anadyr, the administrative center**

of Chukotka, located on the shores of Anadyr Bay. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the port for embarkation.

**After settling into your cabin, you will enjoy a welcome**

cocktail and meet the expedition team.

**From the open decks, you may even spot belugas — white**

Arctic whales that often swim right up to the ship.

**Day 2**

**On this day, you can take full advantage of your ship’s**

comforts: dine in the panoramic restaurant, relax in the sauna with ocean views, or enjoy a drink at the outdoor grill bar.

**The ship will enter Providence Bay — one of the most**

beautiful and atmospheric places on the Chukotka coast. You will be able to watch the scenery from specially designed viewing decks at the bow and stern, complete with cozy chairs, blankets, and hot drinks.


**The view is striking: narrow inlets framed by dark ridges**

up to 800 meters high. Even in summer, snow lingers on the slopes. The bay stretches for 34 kilometers, its winding coastline

**Most popular**

Chukotka

## VIP Cruise to Wrangel Island

Difficulty	
Age	from 8 y.o.
Group size	to 140
Duration	13 days

Accommodation at the trip

Языки



guide

from 22 435 EUR

often covered in mist, giving the northern landscape a mysterious and captivating look.

**Day 3**

**This morning you will go ashore on Yttygran Island to see**

Whale Bone Alley, a unique site of ancient Eskimo culture. Massive bowhead whale bones, set deep into the ground, form a ceremonial complex that dates back to before the 16th century.

**You will walk through the blooming tundra of Gilmimyl Bay**

and unwind in natural hot springs. Next, Zodiac rides at Penkigney Bay will bring you close to gray and bowhead whales feeding in the coastal waters.

**Later in the day, you will reach the village of Yanrakynnot,**

perched on the hills above the Semyonovsky Strait. Nearby, you will find the “Whale Cemetery,” where giant bones still stand as reminders of the ancient Chukchi hunting traditions.

**Day 4**

**Today you will stand at the very edge of Russia — the**

easternmost point of Eurasia.

**You will walk up to the lighthouse-monument dedicated to**

the explorer Semyon Dezhnev. In clear weather, you can see the coast of Alaska from here — just 86 kilometers away.

**Your next stop is Uelen, the easternmost settlement in**

Eurasia and one of Chukotka’s main centers of bone carving art. You will visit the region’s oldest workshop, meet local artists, and sample northern delicacies such as caviar, fish, walrus, and whale meat.

**Day 5**

**You will land on the tiny Kolyuchin Island, which covers**

just 8 km². Its name comes from the Eskimo language and translates as “large ice floe” or “circle” — the island’s rounded shape really does resemble a giant piece of drifting ice.

**Until 1992, a weather station operated here, and today**

only its abandoned buildings remain.

**Kolyuchin is home to one of the Arctic’s most spectacular**

bird cliffs: guillemots, puffins, and gulls nest in the coastal rocks. Along the shore, you may also spot polar bears.

**Day 6**

**For the next days, you will explore Wrangel Island, part of**

a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Russia’s most remarkable nature reserves.

**If weather permits, the ship will circumnavigate the island,**

with several landings in different locations. You will see polar bears, walruses, musk oxen, and rare Arctic birds. In the surrounding waters, you may encounter belugas, gray whales, and even bowhead whales.

**The tundra here is strikingly colorful: more than 400 plant**

species grow on Wrangel Island. Around 40 species of animals, birds, and insects are found nowhere else in the world.

**You will also approach remote Herald Island, located 40**

kilometers from Wrangel. Its rocky shores make landing impossible, so you will explore by Zodiac. You will cruise past dramatic bird cliffs and, with some luck, take unforgettable photos of polar bears.

**Day 7**

**Today you will head for the coast of the Chukchi Sea and**

take a Zodiac cruise along the rugged cliffs of Kolyuchin Bay. Here you may spot whales, walruses at their haul-outs, and countless Arctic birds nesting on the rocks.

**Day 8**

**You will visit Big Diomedé (Ratmanov Island), the**

easternmost point of Russia, located directly across from the American island of Little Diomedé (Kruzenstern).

**Between the two rocky islands runs the International Date**

Line, creating a time difference of almost 21 hours. This is why one is known as the “Tomorrow Island,” and the other as the “Yesterday Island.”

**Day 9**

**Your ship will anchor off the coast of Lorino, a village**

known as one of Chukotka’s traditional whaling centers. Here, whaling is permitted only to the indigenous peoples of the North.

**You will have the chance to bathe in Lorino’s hot springs,**

located not far from the village, and enjoy sweeping views of Chukotka’s dramatic landscapes.

**Day 10**

**Today you will relax on the shores of Lake Achchyon,**

separated from Anadyr Bay by a narrow sandy spit. Enjoy leisurely fishing, followed by a lunch of freshly cooked fish soup prepared over the fire, and time to unwind by the campfire.

**In the evening, the ship will set course for Anadyr. You will**

join your fellow travelers for a farewell cocktail and a film showcasing the highlights of your expedition.

**Day 11**

**Early in the morning your ship will return to the port of**

Anadyr. After saying farewell to the crew, you will disembark, where a transfer will be waiting to take you either to your hotel or to the airport, depending on your flight schedule.

**Back home, a special surprise will be waiting for you — a**

film with highlights and memories of your journey along Chukotka’s wild and remote shores.

# Accommodation at the trip

Your voyage will take place aboard the 5-star expedition cruise ship *SH Minerva*.



Built in 2021 at a Finnish shipyard, the vessel is equipped with an ice-strengthened hull and extra-large stabilizers. It accommodates up to 140 guests in luxury suites.

**Onboard facilities** include a club lounge with 24-hour dining, an observation lounge for lectures and live music evenings, an outdoor infinity pool, a sauna with hot tubs offering panoramic ocean views, a spa, a gym, a main restaurant, a basecamp, and a library.

**Every cabin** is equipped with a realistic flame-effect fireplace, a minibar (restocked daily), a safe, a seating area, and a private bathroom.

Rates depend on the selected cabin type. The price is per person, based on double occupancy in a cabin.

Oceanview M4 (deck 4, center) – ~~24,000~~ 22,435 USD  
Balcony D5 (deck 5, bow and aft) – ~~28,570~~ 26,700 USD  
Balcony M5 (deck 5, center) – ~~29,715~~ 27,770 USD  
Balcony D6 (deck 6) – ~~33,145~~ 30,975 USD  
Suite (deck 5 and 6) – ~~42,285~~ 39,520 USD  
Premium Suite (deck 6) – 44,855 USD

Bank charges are not included in the USD price.

A 50% prepayment is required to secure a reservation. The remaining 50% is due 90 days before the start of the cruise.

**Cabin Types:**

**Oceanview** (20 sq.m.): two single beds or a double bed, sitting area with sofa, a flame-effect fireplace, luxurious bathroom, and panoramic windows

**Balcony** (25 sq.m.): two single beds or a double bed, sitting area with sofa, a flame-effect fireplace, luxurious bathroom, and a private 5 sq.m. balcony

**Suite** (40 sq.m.): king-size bed, a separate living room with a flame-effect fireplace, a luxurious ensuite bathroom with a separate bathtub and walk-in shower, and a private 10 sq.m. balcony.

**Premium Suite** (47 sq.m.): king-size bed, a separate living room with a flame-effect fireplace, a luxurious ensuite bathroom with a separate bathtub and shower, a walk-in wardrobe, and a private 12 sq.m. balcony.

# FAQ

## What to pack

Temperatures in the northern parts of the route can drop below freezing. Sometimes landings aren’t possible, and Zodiacs will cruise along the shore instead.

The coast can be very windy, which makes it feel colder. On Zodiac rides, splashes are common, even in calm seas, so your clothing should be both waterproof and windproof. Most heat is lost through the head, hands, and feet, so give these areas extra attention. A small folding seat pad can also come in handy.

For photography, bring a waterproof case to protect your equipment from rain or drizzle.

**Recommended clothing:**

- Warm pants
- Waterproof pants
- Thermal underwear
- Sweater
- Turtleneck
- Wool hat covering the ears
- Balaclava or scarf
- Warm socks
- Waterproof, windproof hooded jacket

Optional: smart-casual outfit for the farewell evening (heels are not recommended)

**Footwear:**

- Trekking boots (recommended for long hikes). If you bring them, carry them in your backpack and change into them on shore. Boots with a ridged sole give the best grip.
- Rubber boots (required for landings, provided free of charge on board). If you bring your own, they should reach mid-calf or higher, with a thick, ribbed, non-slip sole. Some landings involve stepping into water up to 25 cm deep.
- Warm insoles for boots.
- Sandals, sneakers, or other comfortable shoes for wearing on board.
- Flip-flops for the shower.

**Personal items:**

- Warm, waterproof gloves
- Sunglasses
- Rich, nourishing cream (better protection in windy weather)
- Lip balm
- Binoculars
- Earplugs
- Swimsuit (for sauna, hot springs)
- Passport and a copy of your insurance policy

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## Meals

The cruise includes full board and an open bar with tea, coffee, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages (premium brands excluded). Cabin service is available 24/7.

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## Who will be my guide

The ship’s crew includes 120 staff members, among them the expedition team: experienced guides, speakers, and lecturers.

**Top experts** will share insights into the wildlife, history, and culture of Chukotka and Wrangel Island.

For evenings on board, we’ve also invited a **professional board-game host and a singer-guitarist** to create a warm and friendly atmosphere.

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## Insurance

Medical insurance is mandatory for this expedition. It is not included in the cruise price and must be purchased separately. If you need help arranging it, let your booking manager know.

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Staying comfortable at sea

Rough seas are possible, but motion sickness medication is effective and available at the reception desk if needed.

If you’re unsure whether you get seasick, try waiting before taking medication — some travelers find that ignoring mild symptoms helps their body adjust naturally within a few hours.

Helpful tips:

- Avoid staring at screens or reading for long periods — focusing on still images can make symptoms worse.
- Fresh air helps: step outside onto the open deck and look at the horizon.
- Don’t let the cabin get stuffy.

Booking

Chukotka

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Most popular

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Age

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from 8 y.o.

to 140

13 days

Accomodation at the trip

from 22 435 EUR

What's included in the price:

— transfers on the first and last days of the program

— accommodation onboard in a cabin of the chosen category

— full board (three meals daily) onboard

— coffee, tea, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages available 24/7

— 24-hour cabin service

— lectures by the expedition team

— all landings and excursions as per the program

— service charges, port fees, and gratuities

— a branded expedition jacket, water bottle, and backpack as gifts

— standard Wi-Fi package

— rental of rubber boots

— in-cabin minibar

— photos and videos from the ship’s photographer

Extra charge:

— airfare to and from Anadyr

— mandatory medical insurance covering emergency evacuation from remote and hard-to-reach areas

— hotel accommodation and sightseeing program before and/or after the cruise

— personal expenses onboard (laundry, phone calls, premium Wi-Fi package, etc.)

— premium alcoholic beverages at the bar (not included in the standard package)

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from 22 435 EUR

Best price guarantee

Personal tours

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