

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

You will land on the shores of Yttygran Island and discover

the heritage of ancient Eskimo culture. A walk will take you to Whale Bone Alley — a sacred site made of bowhead whale bones set upright in the ground. According to researchers, it was created before the 16th century. Today, the Alley is recognized as a cultural heritage site of the peoples of Russia.


Later, you will board Zodiacs for an expedition to Senyavin

Strait. It's one of the best places in the Russian Far East for whale watching. This is where humpback and gray whales often come to feed. These majestic marine giants are unafraid of humans and sometimes approach boats quite closely. Imagine it — towering fins breaking the surface, and two enormous tails rising in perfect unison just a few meters away.

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 25 800 EUR

Along the strait’s shores, you can spot walrus haul-outs,

and the nearby cliffs are alive with noisy colonies of puffins and horned puffins. Not far from the mouth of the Pestsovaya River, there is an abandoned reindeer herders’ camp — a quiet reminder of the life that once thrived in these remote and rugged lands.

Day 3

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 4

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 5

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 6

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 7

Nestled on the shores of the Bering Strait, the village of

Lavrentiya is home to the Indigenous peoples of the North who continue to preserve their traditional way of life. It is the cultural heart of the region, hosting the famous “Beringia” regatta — a festival of traditional skin kayaks that brings together participants from across Russia.

You will enjoy a leisurely walk through the village,

exploring its monuments and experiencing authentic northern life. A visit to the local museum will introduce you to unique artifacts that tell the story of Chukotka’s peoples — their traditions, beliefs, and deep spiritual connection to the land.

Visitors are welcomed warmly here. You will be treated to

traditional dances and local delicacies, accompanied by herbal tea brewed over an open fire. You will also have the chance to purchase authentic handmade Chukchi souvenirs crafted by local artisans.

Day 8

Today you can choose between two activities.

The first option is a six-hour trek from Penkigney Bay to

Gilmymyl Bay through Beringia National Park. Along the route, you will enjoy breathtaking landscapes — winding fjords, rolling hills, and tundra blooming with Arctic flowers.

At the end of the hike, you will relax in the Senyavin Hot

Springs, the largest geothermal area in the Providensky District. More than 150 springs emerge from the ground here, with water temperatures reaching up to 80 °C, rich in minerals and radon.

If you prefer a more relaxed day, you can stay on board

and travel the same route by sea. You will enjoy a whale-watching Zodiac safari, followed by a rejuvenating dip in the hot springs.

Day 9

Today, the ship will approach the shores of Meechkyn Spit

— a narrow yet remarkably long barrier island. It stretches for about 60 kilometers, with an average width of just 100 meters. The spit is designated as a zoological natural monument: walruses and seals inhabit its shores, colonies of rare birds nest here, and whales can often be seen in the surrounding waters.

Expedition boats will take you to a vast walrus haul-out,

where you will have a chance to observe these giants from a close but safe distance. The island is also home to one of the world’s rarest bird species — the spoon-billed sandpiper. And with a bit of luck, you might spot brown bears on the beach — they sometimes swim over from the mainland.

Day 10

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.

Accomodation 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) – ~~27,090~~ 25,800 USD
Balcony D5 (deck 5, bow and aft) – ~~32,770~~ 31,210 USD
Balcony M5 (deck 5, center) – ~~34,060~~ 32,440 USD
Balcony D6 (deck 6) – ~~36,880~~ 35,120 USD
Suite (deck 5 and 6) – ~~49,800~~ 47,430 USD
Premium Suite (deck 6) – ~~56,530~~ 53,830 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

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.

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.

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.

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

Difficulty

Age

from 8 y.o.

Group size

to 140

Duration

13 days

from 25 800 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)

23 jul 2026, thu — 4 aug 2026, tue

from 25 800 EUR



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