

Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

Arctic Cruise Adventure: In Search of the Polar Bear

July 16-31, 2023 | From \$18,490*

In cooperation with

Abercrombie & Kent

Arctic Cruise Adventure: In Search of the Polar Bear

July 16-31, 2023 | 16 days from \$18,490*

Explore the Arctic on an all-encompassing expedition in search of the mighty polar bear. Travel alongside A&K's unmatched Expedition Team and knowledgeable experts intimately familiar with the region, seeking out the sea bear in the Svalbard Islands and discovering the starkly beautiful lava fields and ice caves of Iceland's Westfjords. Experience this thrilling destination through numerous guided shore landings and active excursions.

*Price includes internal air. Early booking discount rate is guaranteed for NIU Alumni Association Travel Program members until December 31, 2022.

A&K ADVANTAGES

- Cruise for 13 nights aboard luxurious 'Le Boreal' through the Arctic's wildest regions on a voyage exclusively chartered by A&K
- Begin your journey with an included overnight stay in Oslo, Norway at the Radission Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen
- Enjoy active exploration of the Arctic's varied landscapes, from Zodiac excursions through ice floes to epic volcanic hikes, all under the wing of A&K's award-winning Expedition Team
- Experience a vast breadth of Arctic wildlife habitats, including the polar bear haven of Svalbard

- Cruise to the remote east coast of Greenland, where you may visit Scoresby Sound and the Inuit village of Ittogqortoormiit
- Discover North Iceland and the whale-watching port of Husavik, where you experience a private, behind-thescenes tour at the renowned Husavik Whale Museum
- Join photography lectures, hands-on workshops and tips in the field led by A&K's dedicated photo coach
- Travel with NIU professor of micropaleontology Dr. Reed Scherer, and learn of his longtime working research in polar regions



JUL 16: Depart USA

JUL 17: Arrive Oslo, Norway

Arrive in Oslo, your gateway to the Arctic. Upon arrival, you are met and escorted to your hotel, conveniently located near the airport. This evening, gather for a welcome briefing. Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen | Meals: D

JUL 18: Norway | Oslo to Longyearbyen

Board an early morning charter flight to Longyearbyen, the capital of Svalbard, also known as Spitsbergen, the sovereign Arctic archipelago of Norway. It is one of the most remote groups of islands on the planet, with nearly two-thirds of its surface covered in luminous glaciers. Tour the tiny town and its Arctic Museum. This afternoon, board your luxury expedition cruiser. 'Le Boreal' | Meals: B L D

JUL 19-23: Norway | The Svalbard Archipelago Very few people have the opportunity to view the remote wilderness of the Svalbard Islands. In the archipelago, polar bears, walruses, Svalbard reindeer and an incredibly rich variety of birds are abundant, as are cathedrals of ice, glaciers and craggy mountain peaks. An exquisite assortment of flora also peppers this barren landscape. One of the main objectives of your voyage is to spot polar bears in their natural habitat. Cruising on A&K's exclusive charter, rely on our experts and their intimate knowledge of the Arctic to lead you to locales that provide the highest probability for viewing these elusive animals. Throughout the expedition, your Captain and Expedition Leader determine the day's best sightseeing opportunities, which may include:

Ny Alesund: Home to a polar research station and the northernmost post office in the world.

Alkefjellet ("Auk Cliffs"): Staggering cliffs that drop directly into the water and provide a home to vast colonies of auks, diving birds entirely dependent on the sea for their food.

Monacobreen: Formerly known as Monaco Bay, this glacier reaches down into Spitsbergen and is frequented by polar bears, harbor and bearded seals, walruses and a multitude of seabirds.

Liefdefjorden ("The Love Fjord"): Named after a Dutch ship with the same name, this fjord is another excellent area for spotting polar bears and wildlife.

Sjuoyane ("Seven Islands"): The most northerly region of the Svalbard archipelago.

In every region, enjoy endless moments of discovery alongside A&K's Expedition Team, who intuitively know where and when you're most likely to see polar bears and other wildlife, which you observe from the safety and comfort of your luxury expedition cruiser. These same experts also scout every landing site in advance, assuring your safety and maximizing your experience ashore. 'Le Boreal' | Meals: B L D

JUL 24: At Sea | Cruising the Greenland Sea Cruise south through the Greenland Sea as your lecturers offer presentations on the wildlife, history and geology of Svalbard and prepare you for visits to Jan Mayen and Greenland. 'Le Boreal' | Meals: B L D JUL 25: Jan Mayen | Glacier-Cloaked Volcano

At the confluence of the Greenland and Norwegian seas, arrive at Jan Mayen, a rugged island dominated by the 7,500-foot Beerenberg Volcano, the world's northernmost active volcano. With special permission and conditions permitting, land on this rarely visited island to see Olonkinbyen, its meteorological station, and discover its phenomenal bird colonies. Designated by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA), Jan Mayen supports large breeding colonies of northern fulmars, little auks, thick-billed guillemots and black guillemots. 'Le Boreal' | Meals: B L D

JUL 26-27: **Greenland** | Remote Ittoqqortoormiit Village While crossing the Greenland Sea and cruising the Arctic ice edge, your Expedition Team prepares you for the world's largest island: Greenland. Arrive at its rarely visited east coast and Scoresby Sound, the largest and longest fjord system in the world, all of which you enjoy exploring for the next two days. Set off on Zodiacs (sturdy inflatable boats) through the fjord's intricate network, taking in its islands and icebergs and searching for musk ox and Arctic fox. Ice conditions permitting, disembark for a visit to the small settlement of Ittoqqortoormiit, one of the most isolated villages in Greenland. 'Le Boreal' | Meals: B L D



For more information, please visit **myniu.com/travel** or call **815 753 1512**. For reservations, contact Deana Guarino at **dguarino@abercrombiekent.com** or call **630 725 3400 x356**.



JUL 28: **At Sea** | Cruising the Denmark Strait Enjoy a relaxing day at sea cruising the strip of water that separates Greenland from Iceland and connects the Arctic Sea with the Atlantic Ocean. Watch for seabirds and whales from the deck in between insightful lectures presented by your Expedition Team. 'Le Boreal' | Meals: B L D

JUL 29: Iceland | Whale-Watching Haven

Arrive in picturesque Husavik and visit the Husavik Whale Museum, supported by Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy. The museum is one of the world's foremost centers for research of whales and their habitat. Afterward, choose to embark on a scenic whale-watching tour followed by free time in Husavik, or set off for Godafoss Falls and geothermal Lake Myvatn. Tonight, gather with your Expedition Team and fellow guests for a special farewell reception and dinner. 'Le Boreal' | Meals: B L D

JUL 30: **Iceland's Westfjords** | Lava & lce-Carved Lands The Westfjords of Iceland are more remote and much less visited than other parts of the country, with small settlements interspersed among spectacular mountains and coves. You might make a visit to Dynjandi Falls, the grandest waterfall in the Westfjords. Dynjandi is a spectacular sight, with water cascading down tiered ridges flanked by a green and brown façade. Enjoy a leisurely walk along the shore or take a more vigorous trek to the viewing platform, both offering scenic views of the falls. 'Le Boreal' | Meals: B L D

JUL 31: Depart Reykjavik

This morning, disembark your luxury expedition cruiser in Reykjavik and transfer to the airport for your return flight home, arriving in the USA the same day. Meals: B

Note: Itinerary is for guidance purposes only and may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances including weather, wildlife, ice, medical emergencies and other conditions beyond A&K's control at the sole discretion of the Captain.



Sophisticated, all-balcony luxury expedition cruiser exclusively chartered by A&K.



Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen Sleek, convenient airport hotel.

Arctic Wildlife and Culture Highlights with A&K

From quaint villages at the top of the world to a variety of exhilarating active adventures, look forward to experiencing these highlights with your Expedition Team on this exciting Arctic voyage.



Active Exploration Explore the geological wonders of this region with a sea kayak excursion led by an expert guide.





Expert Photography Coaching Join lectures led by A&K's dedicated photo coach and receive valuable hands-on tips in the field



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Meet Your A&K Expedition Team



Dr. Reed Scherer MICROPALEONTOLOGIST

A professor of micropaleontology and biostratigraphy at Northern Illinois University, Reed uses microscopic fossil diatoms (algae) to address fundamental questions regarding the geological history of the Polar regions. His numerous expeditions, spanning more than three decades, include drilling deep into the seabed of the northern Norwegian Sea to research a 56-million-year-old climate change event. Reed is a board of trustees member of the Burpee Museum of Natural History and holds a Ph.D. from Ohio State University.



Dr. James McClintock CLIMATE ECOLOGY LECTURER

A native of California and an endowed university professor of marine zoology, Jim is a noted climate change expert and has led A&K expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica since 2006. Author of over 235 research publications and four books, Jim discovered an anticancer compound in Antarctic marine invertebrates, and a point of land in Antarctica's Ross Sea has been named after him.



Dr. Nikita Ovsyanikov POLAR BEAR EXPERT

A recognized authority on polar bears, Nikita is a zoologist focused on animal behavior, population ecology and conservation. He has served as deputy director of sciences for Wrangel Island State Nature Reserve, published numerous papers and books, and spent most of his life studying polar bears in the High Arctic. His film *Polar Bears: Life on the Field of Bones* documents a season on Herald Island.



Dr. Maria Patricia Silva Rodriguez ORNITHOLOGY LECTURER

Born in Mercedes, Uruguay, Patricia received her doctoral degree at the National University of Mar del Plata in Argentina, where she continues her research today. In addition to sharing her enthusiasm as an ornithologist and artist on voyages from the polar regions to the South Pacific, she has participated in over a dozen Arctic research expeditions and is a passionate advocate for the conservation of migratory seabirds.



Russ Manning NATURALIST & ZODIAC DRIVER

Born in Sussex, Russ joined the British Royal Marine Commandos on his 17th birthday and served for 15 years. He later journeyed on to the beautiful South Orkneys, where he worked as boatman, travel guide and winter base commander at the British Antarctic Survey research station, the last of which earned him the Polar Medal. Since 1990, he has embarked upon expedition vessels as a Zodiac driver and naturalist. When not in the polar latitudes, Russ returns to his home in Lancing, England.



Geraldine "JD" Massyn EXPEDITION LEADER

Sailing with A&K since 1991, JD brings more than 30 years of experience in expedition cruising, along with her own unique brand of enthusiasm, to the roles of expedition leader, cruise director, dive master and naturalist. She is a powerboat skipper and yacht master, and the recipient of prestigious awards for her selfless bravery at sea, including Sea Rescue South Africa. JD has travelled to every continent, spends several months a year sailing the Seychelles and calls South Africa home.



Paul Carter CRUISE DIRECTOR

Even at the young age of 15, Paul knew he wanted to travel the world. Graduating with a hotel and catering management degree, he pursued a career at sea, working as an officer both in the United Kingdom and the Caribbean before becoming an assistant purser in 1983. Paul has since visited all seven continents and more than 120 countries, and loves to meet others who share his passion for exploring the world.

THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Pre-trip assistance
- Informational packet
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience
- Arrival meet and greet, along with a short escorted walk from the airport to the Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen
- One-night accommodation at Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen, including breakfast
- Services of tour operator Abercrombie & Kent's hospitality/ concierge desk at Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen
- Luggage handling and porterage of one suitcase per person from airport to hotel and ship, including return
- All meals as shown in the day-by-day itinerary
- All gratuities for the crew and the A&K Expedition Team, as well as drivers and guides for services as shown in the day-by-day itinerary
- Welcome cocktail reception, group briefing and dinner (July 17)
- Sightseeing as detailed in the day-by-day itinerary, including applicable entrance fees

THE TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Taxes for cruise and included ground services
- Charter flight from Oslo to Longyearbyen (July 18), including all applicable taxes
- Lunch and exclusive cruise check-in at Kulturhuset in Longyearbyen
- 13-night Luxury Expedition Cruise on board 'Le Boreal'
- All meals and open bar on board 'Le Boreal' (excludes premium wines and Champagnes)
- All shore excursions, Zodiac cruises, full lecture and enrichment program, and services of the A&K Expedition Team on board
- Complimentary expedition parka, backpack, and use of waterproof boots, pants and trekking poles
- Complimentary Wi-Fi and laundry (eight pieces per person) while on board

 International airfare to Oslo, Norway, and from Reykjavik, Iceland. Please contact InterTrav Corporation at 630 377 5840 to book your international air. Flight pricing and schedules will be available beginning the week of Monday, September 26, 2022. InterTrav Corporation

• Items of personal nature such as passport fees; personal and baggage insurance; emergency evacuation insurance; and meals and services other than those stated above or in the program itinerary

For reservations, contact Deana Guarino at dguarino@abercrombiekent.com or call 630 725 3400 x356

Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover). Program prices are guaranteed for reservations made before December 31, 2022.

Please note: This tour requires a minimum of \$100,000 of emergency evacuation insurance for participation. Please call for full details.

To confirm your reservation, a deposit of \$2,500 per person is required. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellation fees per person:

181 days or more prior to departure:\$700 per person180-121 days prior to departure:\$1,700 per person120-91 days prior to departure:20% of program price90-61 days prior to departure:50% of program price60 days prior to departure or less:100% cancellation penalty

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/ interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 800 937 1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

No Liability: By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel. AATP does not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program. AATP does not act as agent for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations, or any other travel related services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AATP is not liable for any negligent, intentional, or willful act by any such person or entity. In addition and without limitation, AATP is not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property, or any accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever arising out of or related in any way to any accommodations, transportation or other services, or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses that may be incurred. AATP, in its sole and exclusive discretion reserves the right to withdraw its affiliation with any individual tour operator should conditions warrant.

Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

- Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
- 2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
- 3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds: No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

For more information, call 815 753 1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com. To make your reservation, contact Deana Guarino at dguarino@abercrombiekent.com or call 630 725 3400 x356.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Alumni Association Travel Program LLC Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center 231 N. Annie Glidden Rd. Dekalb, IL 60115

'Le Boreal' Pricing & Deck Plan

DATES & PRICING

					INCLUDES HOTEL ROOM UPGRADE + ONBOARD BUTLER SERVICE				
Guaranteed Departure	Category 1 Classic Stateroom	Category 2 Deluxe Stateroom	Category3 Premier Stateroom	Category 4 Superior Stateroom	Category 5 Prestige Suite	Category 6 Premier Two-Room Suite	Category7 Prestige Two-RoomSuite	Category 8 Owner's Suite	
Double Occupancy per Person with Early Booking Discount*	\$18,490	\$20,990	\$22,490	\$23,490	\$31,990	\$38,490	\$41,490	\$46,490	

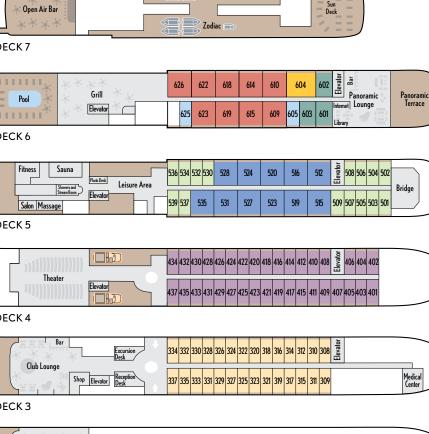
*Price includes internal air. Early booking discount rate is guaranteed for NIU Alumni Association Travel Program members until December 31, 2022.

Journey Details

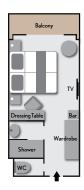
BUTLER SERVICE INCLUDED

This journey contains some active elements, including Zodiac boat excursions, walks over uneven terrain and optional, challenging hikes. Minimum age is 7 years. Categories 5-8 include room upgrade at the hotel and butler service aboard the ship. First group event: welcome reception on July 17, 2023. Last group event: disembarkation at 9:00 a.m. on July 31, 2023.

Category 1 Ħ 目 Zodiac 🔳 Classic Stateroom Open Air Bar Zodiac 🚍 Category 2 **Deluxe Stateroom** DECK 7 Category 3 626 622 618 **Premier Stateroom** Grill Pool Elevator (625 623 619 Category 4 **Superior Stateroom** DECK 6 Category 5 Sauna Fitness 536 534 532 530 528 **Prestige Suite** Photo Desk Leisure Area Showers and Stream Room Elevator 539 537 535 Salon Massage 531 Category 6 Premier Two-Room Suite DECK 5 May be converted to two Category 3 Staterooms Category 7 Theater Elevator Prestige Two-Room Suite May be converted to two DECK 4 Category 3 Staterooms Category 8 Bar **Owner's Suite** Club Lounge Shop Elevator Desk DECK 3 Marina The Restaurant Elevator DECK 2



'Le Boreal' Staterooms & Suites Layout

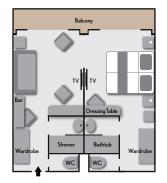


Categories 1–4 **Staterooms** Cabin: 195 sq. ft. (18 sq. m.) Balcony: 43 sq. ft. (4 sq. m.)

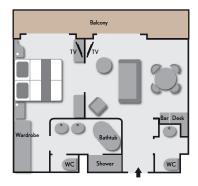


Category 5 **Prestige Suite** Cabin: 290 sq. ft. (27 sq. m.) Balcony: 54 sq. ft. (5 sq. m.)





Categories 6-7 Premier and Prestige Two-Room Suites Cabin: 390 sq. ft. (36 sq. m.) Balcony: 86 sq. ft. (8 sq. m.)



Category 8 Owner's Suite Cabin: 484 sq. ft. (45 sq. m.) Balcony: 97 sq. ft. (9 sq. m.)



For more information, please visit **myniu.com/travel** or call **815 753 1512**. For reservations, contact Deana Guarino at **dguarino**@**abercrombiekent.com** or call **630 725 3400 x356**.

