Voyage Under the Midnight Sun

ARCTIC EXPEDITION
Spitsbergen • Svalbard Archipelago

Aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star L’AUSTRAL
June 9 to 19, 2020
Dear Gator Traveler:

Europe's last great wilderness, the extraordinary High Arctic lands of the Svalbard archipelago summon awe and adventure like few places on earth. Journey to 80 degrees North where the human impact is slight and magnificent ice formations exert a mythical pull on the imagination.

Follow in the footsteps of Vikings, explorers and scientists as you experience the Arctic's sublime landscapes at the best time of year, when the region is bathed in the magical light of the Midnight Sun. Join the University of Florida for this once-in-a-lifetime, 11-day program and navigate pristine fjords, see stunning views of glimmering glaciers, land by Zodiac for ice walks and search for rare wildlife, including the King of the Arctic—the polar bear—walruses, whales, elusive Arctic foxes, reindeer and several species of seabirds.

Enjoy Five-Star accommodations aboard the Ice Class, eco-friendly L'Austral, the finest expedition ship to cruise these Arctic waters. The ship features 95% private balcony Staterooms along with spacious observation lounges and open-air decks conducive to optimum viewing and it is ideal for cruising fjords inaccessible to larger vessels. An expert Arctic Expedition Team will accompany you on board and during Zodiac excursions to explore the natural beauty of this untouched wilderness up close.

Discover your “true North” with the University of Florida on this specially designed Arctic Expedition. Reserve now while Early Booking Savings and space are available!

Sincerely,

Matthew M. Hodge, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations &
Executive Director, UF Alumni Association
University of Florida Advancement
What it’s really like to be on “Top of the World”

Luminous glaciers, snow-covered mountainous landscapes, pristine fjords, massive sheets of ice, uniquely shaped icebergs and Arctic wildlife—these wondrous sights will unfold around you on this once-in-a-lifetime expedition into the untouched Arctic’s remote Svalbard archipelago. Be on the lookout for bearded seals and massive walruses resting on the ice and numerous species of whales; evanescent Arctic foxes; graceful Svalbard reindeer grazing on the Arctic’s tundra; and Arctic terns and fulmar gliding to and from cliffs. Look for the King of the Arctic—the iconic polar bear—in its natural habitat, hunting seals and traveling over sea ice. The ethereal glow of the Midnight Sun will enhance the true beauty of this extraordinary archipelago as you follow in the footsteps of polar pioneers before you in their quest to reach the “Top of the World.”

Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway

Your Arctic Expedition launches in the small mining town of Longyearbyen, the Norwegian Svalbard archipelago’s capital, at 78 degrees North latitude. Approximately 650 miles from the North Pole, this glacial outpost—the northernmost capital territory in the world—is framed by a breathtaking backdrop of shimmering glaciers carved into deep fjords where whale sightings are common. Enjoy a glimpse of daily life in the Arctic at the Longyearbyen Culture House before embarking L’Austral.

Hornsund/Samarin Glacier

An expert naturalist-led excursion navigates slow-drifting ice by Zodiac in the pristine bay of Burgerbukta to reach the majestic Samarin Glacier. A walk along the glacier reveals magical icy realms. Look for bearded seals relaxing on floating icebergs and a variety of seabirds, including black-legged kittiwakes, little auks, king eiders and Brünnich’s guillemots that transport nutrients to cliff tops,

Native to the Arctic tundra biome, Arctic foxes use their acute hearing to locate prey precisely.
which provide vegetation for resident herbivores like reindeer, geese and ptarmigans. See miniature Arctic wildflowers coloring vast stretches of tundra where small deposits of soil give life to myriad plant species.

**Itinerary**

♦ *Paris Pre-Expedition Option*

1 Depart the U.S.
2 **Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, France**
3 **Paris/Fly to Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen, Norway’s Svalbard Archipelago/Embark L’Austral**
4 **Hornsund/Samarin Glacier**
5 **Bellsund**
6 Cruising the **Arctic Ice Pack**
7 **Woodfjorden/Monaco Glacier**
8 **Raudfjorden for Smeerenburg**
9 **Ny-Ålesund/Kongsfjorden for King’s Glacier**
10 **Longyearbyen/Disembark ship/Fly to Paris, France**
11 **Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris/Arrive in the U.S.**

*Please note that the itinerary, wildlife sightings and the ship’s cruising pattern, excursions and positionings are dependent on weather, ice and sea conditions and are subject to change.*

**Cruise Itinerary**

- **Air Routing**

Listen for bearded seals’ trilling and look for them sunning on the ice during June’s molting season.

Sør-Spitsbergen, Norway’s largest national park. Scattered historic trappers’ huts and redolent relics of a former coal mining settlement offer a glimpse into the region’s industrialist history. Expert naturalists accompany you through Calypsobyen’s intriguing ecosystem, where nimble Arctic foxes live.

Continue to Camp Millar, a former gold mining base where verdant land provides a favored grazing spot for the Svalbard reindeer. Look for curious reindeer and the resident colony of little auk, known for their superb diving skills.

**Cruising the Arctic Ice Pack**

Approach the Arctic Ice Pack at the approximate latitude of 80 degrees North. Survey expansive sea ice for the King of the Arctic—the vulnerable polar bear. The edges of pack ice, where currents and wind interact, are crucial for this apex predator.
predator’s hunting as they search for seals within a melting and refreezing matrix of ice patches.

Keep a keen eye out for these solitary, well-adapted creatures, which are known to travel hundreds of miles from land on floating ice. Scan the cobalt-blue waters for endangered bowhead whales—among the longest surviving species in the world with a life span of up to 200 years—and social beluga whales.

**Woodfjorden/Monaco Glacier**
One of Svalbard’s longest fjords, **Woodfjorden** carves its way 40 miles inland, linking the Liefde Fjord with the Arctic Ocean. Woodfjorden showcases the Arctic’s contrasts—icy, glacier-fronted shores are juxtaposed against a ridge of deep-red Devonian sandstone. The mountains’ high iron oxide content has fascinated geologists, suggesting that Svalbard might have once been located near the equator. This biologically rich biome supports ringed, bearded and harp seals, and walruses can be seen on the beaches. Cruise alongside the blue-striped walls of **Monaco Glacier**, a startlingly beautiful vision. Listen for the sound of tidewater glaciers cracking as they calve into the ocean.

**Raudfjorden**
Your expert naturalist guides lead an exploration of protected **Raudfjorden** amidst Svalbard poppies. Look for rare seabirds, such as pink-footed geese, black-legged kittiwakes and glaucous gulls.

Enjoy a Zodiac excursion to the formerly bustling, 17th-century Dutch whaling station of **Smeerenburg**, today a prized resting shore for walruses.

**Ny-Ålesund**
Discover the hub of scientific exploration, **Ny-Ålesund**, where 16 international research stations function as both lab and living quarters for scientists affiliated with their country’s polar research institute. A former coal mining facility founded in 1916, this remote outpost is a fluid boundary between civilization and nature and was the launching pad for legendary Arctic explorer Roald Amundsen.

An excursion by Zodiac through the inlet of **Kongsfjorden** takes you to the tidewater **Kongsbreen** (King’s Glacier), a nesting ground for barnacle geese, common and king eiders, long-tailed ducks, purple sandpipers, Atlantic puffins and snow buntings.

**Expert Expedition Team**
An Arctic Expedition Team of seasoned naturalists who have studied, researched and traveled extensively in the Arctic accompany you throughout your voyage. The team’s collaborative efforts, experience, specialized knowledge in the Arctic’s ecosystems and enthusiasm for sharing their expertise adds extraordinary depth and insight to your Arctic Expedition under the Midnight Sun.
Five-Star, State-of-the-Art, Small Ship
Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star L’Austral, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. The ship’s efficient electrical propulsion system and custom stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage.

Respect for the Environment
With advanced technology and the most environmentally responsible features built into its design and operations, the ship has earned the important “Clean Ship” distinction.

With Our Compliments
Indulge in these complimentary onboard amenities—alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise and in your Suite or Stateroom minibar, Wi-Fi access (conditions permitting) and 24-hour room service.

Chic and Casual Dining
The stylish dining room and casual alfresco restaurant feature international cuisine and serve continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner as four courses or buffet. Wine is served at your table with lunch and dinner.

Elegant Suites and Staterooms—95% Include Private Balconies
Each of the 110 ocean-view Staterooms and Suites range from 200 to 484 square feet, and most have a private balcony. All Five-Star accommodations feature individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower and luxurious hotel amenities, including flat-screen television, a safe, full-length closet, plush robes and slippers.

Life on Board
In addition to educational and cultural presentations, panoramic views, evening entertainment or peaceful retreat, the ship’s spacious public areas comfortably accommodate all passengers. Enjoy a theater, two lounges, the Sun Deck with open-air bar, library, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room and fitness room. The ship has three elevators and 10 Zodiacs.

World-Class Service
The highly trained, English-speaking crew are personable and highly attentive. The ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and nurse.
Included Features

In Paris, France
◆ One night each at the beginning and conclusion of your expedition in the deluxe Hilton PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT HOTEL, with breakfast.
Chartered round-trip airfare Paris, France/Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (internal program air).

On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star, Ice Class L’AUSTRAL
◆ Seven-night cruise round trip Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway.
◆ Elegantly appointed, Five-Star Suite or Stateroom.
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.
◆ All meals aboard ship.
◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi access (conditions permitting).
◆ Onboard expedition team of naturalists, who provide a series of briefings about local wildlife and geology.
◆ Exploration by Zodiac landing craft, accompanied by an expert naturalist from the expedition team.
◆ Zodiac cruise of the sheltered bay of Burgerbukta, where glacial-blue ice fronts snow-striped cliffs.
◆ Zodiac excursion to the remote Samarin Glacier, a dramatic landscape of incredible sapphire-blue ice.
◆ Zodiac excursion to Calypsobyen, a former coal mining settlement.
◆ Cruise of stunning Woodfjorden, where the Arctic’s contrasts unfold in a dramatic panorama.
◆ Cruise to Monaco Glacier, an actively calving ice sheet located within scenic Liefdefjorden.
◆ Arctic nature walk along the shores of Raudfjorden.
◆ Excursion to historic Smeerenburg, a former whaling station, to look for walruses resting on shore.
◆ Explore the world’s northernmost year-round community at Ny-Ålesund, an important international polar research station.
◆ Zodiac cruise of spectacular Kongsfjorden, a fertile environment for birds and bearded seals, to stunning King’s Glacier.
◆ Souvenir polar-grade red parka.

Always Included
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ Experienced, English-speaking naturalists and local guides for included excursions.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom and on excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Renowned for its historic and aesthetic influence, Paris is a truly magnificent city worthy of every superlative. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the “City of Light” and see its most notable landmarks, including the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Place de la Concord and Place Vendôme. Visit the Louvre, the world’s largest museum, for a guided tour, and the Musée Jacquemart-André, a gorgeous 19th-century mansion brimming with fine art and decorative treasures, including Botticelli’s Virgin and Child. Tour Montmartre, the city’s artistic quartier where market squares and crooked streets lead to the spectacular French-Byzantine basilica of Sacré Cœur. Visit historic Place du Tertre, the original artists’ square ever since Renoir, Degas and Picasso called this lofty village home. Trace the history of the district at the Musée de Montmartre, which includes works by Toulouse-Lautrec. Stroll through the Renoir Gardens which afford views of Clos Montmartre, Paris’s only working vineyard. Spend two nights in the deluxe, ideally located Westin Paris Vendome.

The Pre-Expedition Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Paris’s Palais de Chaillot and Eiffel Tower reflect the city’s magnificent architectural accomplishments.

The Arc de Triomphe is an iconic national symbol standing at the center of Place Charles de Gaulle in the heart of Paris.
**LAND/Cruise Tariff excluding taxes**

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Singles are available in category 6 at $15795 and in category 4 at $18195 on or before November 8, 2019. Add $1000 for reservations made after November 8, 2019.

Chartered round-trip airfare Paris, France/Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (internal program air), is included. *Taxes are an additional $495 per person and are subject to change.

1. **LAND/CRUISE TARIFF excluding taxes**
2. **Chartered round-trip airfare Paris, France/Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (internal program air)** is included.
3. *Taxes are an additional $495 per person and are subject to change.

4. The outside back cover of this brochure.
5. **Great Gator Escapes**

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**ARCTIC EXPEDITION RESERVATION FORM**

Send to:
University of Florida Alumni Association
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446
Visit www.ufalumni.ufl.edu for more information on other Great Gator Escapes or any Alumni Association program.

For further information, please call Gohagan & Company toll-free at (800) 922-3088.

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**Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Paris Pre-Expansion Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.**

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $________ as deposit.
- Make checks payable to Great Gator Escapes.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $________ to:
  - Visa
  - MasterCard

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**Signature as it appears on credit card**

ALL FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by March 6, 2020.

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**Please make my/our reservation(s) in category:**

1. **1st Choice**
2. **2nd Choice**

- Double occupancy (two twin beds)
- Double occupancy (one queen bed)
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

**Please make my/our reservation(s):**

- Paris Pre-Expansion Option
  - Double at $1445 per person.
  - Single at $2345 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

**I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised, from:**

- [ ] Economy Class
- [ ] Upgraded Economy
- [ ] Business Class
- [ ] First Class

**Note:** Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

- [ ] 1/I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY:

Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, or by the negligence of others, sickness or health problems of the traveler, or the threat thereof. Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, or by the negligence of others, sickness or health problems of the traveler, or the threat thereof. Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, or by the negligence of others, sickness or health problems of the traveler, or the threat thereof.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in the offices of Gohagan. If you should have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $800 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees will apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Gohagan and offers comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of increases in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international (air which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:

By accepting the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, other according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the JAMS. All such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and will take place in Chicago, IL. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:

By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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(312) 609-1140 or (800) 922-3088
http://www.gohaganchurch.com
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Be on the lookout for walruses lazing near the shore of the deep-blue Arctic waters.