



WATERPROOF[®] EXPEDITIONS



SV ALBARD

SIGNATURE EXPEDITIONS 2026

On board Explorer

Dear guest,

Proudly, I present our carefully designed Signature Expeditions onboard luxury expedition yacht Explorer.

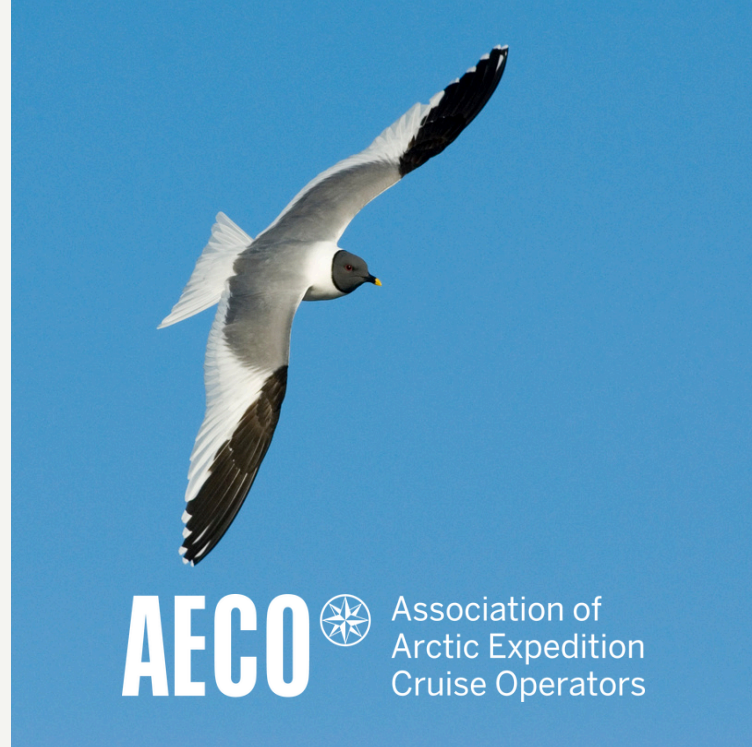
I believe in sharing special moments with like-minded guests who share the same passion for untouched places and appreciate learning from a team of experts. Our expedition team will show you the best of the Arctic and with our A1 ice-class expedition yacht, we are able to venture further where others stay behind.

After a thrilling day of adventure, there's no better way to unwind than by enjoying great food, talks with fellow travellers and relaxing in the wellness facilities onboard. You will feel completely recharged and ready for another day of exploration.

With travelling to the most pristine regions of our planet comes great responsibility. Waterproof Expeditions is a member of AECO, dedicated to ensure expedition cruise tourism benefits the regions it visits, with a strong focus on the natural environment, cultural preservation, local communities, and safe operations at sea and on land.

Bring a good portion of adventurous spirit and enjoy high end expedition travel without compromising on comfort.

Marlynda Elstgeest
CEO & Owner





SMALL SHIP EXPERIENCE

THE ULTIMATE LUXURY

Traveling to Svalbard on a small ship offers something rare: the freedom to experience nature on our own terms. Unlike larger vessels which are bound to rigid schedules, our expeditions have no fixed itinerary. We follow the rhythm of the Arctic, seizing opportunities as they arise. A polar bear at midnight, whales emerging alongside the ship, or sudden perfect Arctic light for photography, with our swift operations, we can make most of every moment.

The advantages of a small ship expedition:

- **Closer to nature:** On a small ship, you're truly closer to the Arctic environment. Closer to the water's surface, to the ice crackling against the hull, and to the sound of whales breaching nearby.
- **Intimate Encounters:** With fewer guests, every landing feels personal, and wildlife experiences are never crowded.
- **No waiting:** All guests can disembark at once for zodiac cruises and shore landings, ensuring minimal waiting times and giving you far more time ashore than on larger ships.
- **Expert Guidance:** Our two passionate guides ensure tailored experiences and deeper insights into the Arctic ecosystem.
- **True Connection:** Share the adventure with your own group of friends and family, fostering stories that last a lifetime.
- **Extended Time In the Ice:** Our favourite place to look for polar bears, surrounded by a seemingly endless expanse of ice.
- **No rush!** We will spend as much time exploring, photographing, or simply soaking up the silence as you like.

SVALBARD EXPEDITIONS

 Longyearbyen, Svalbard  Spring/Summer 2026

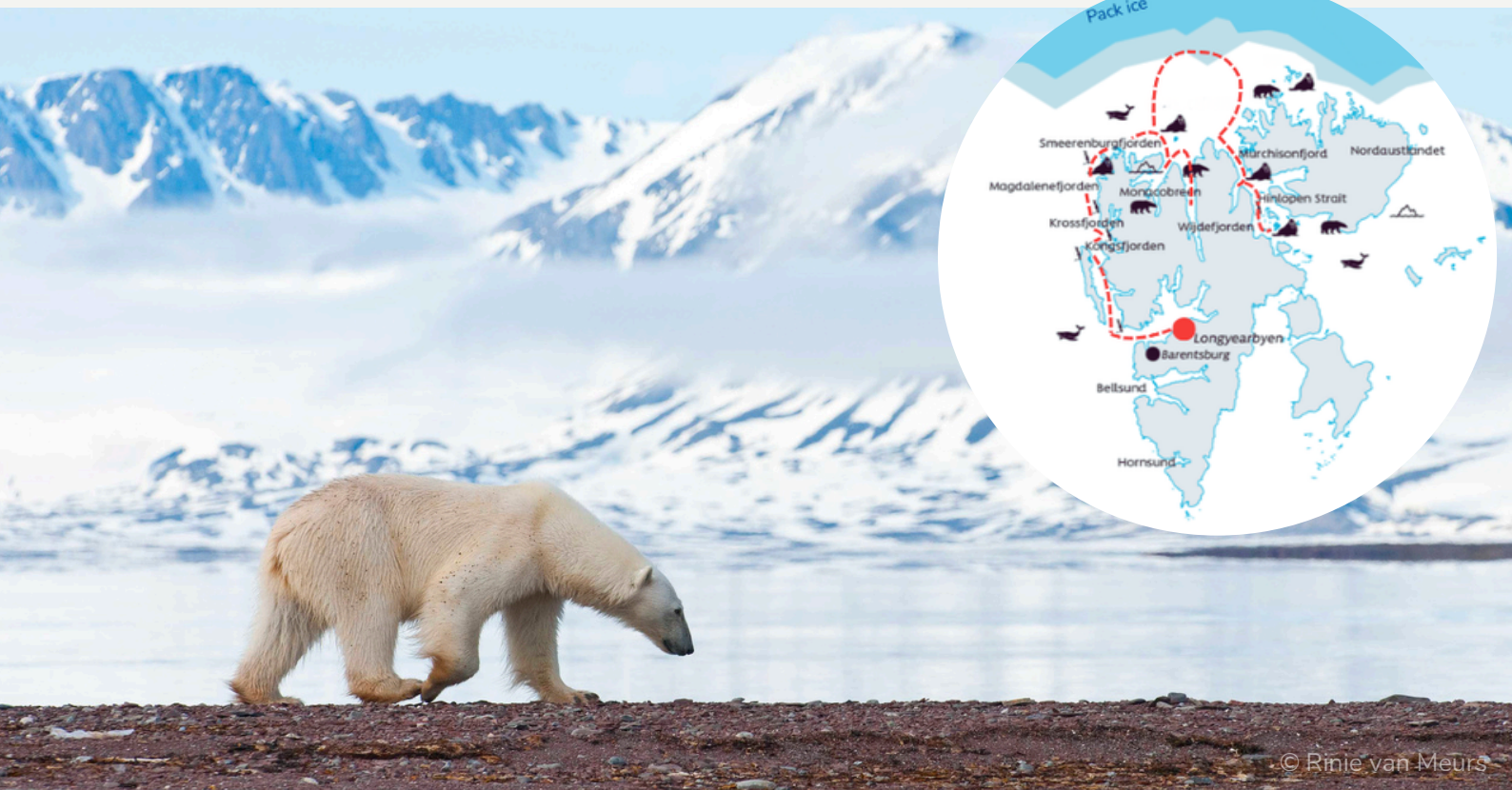
Our **Signature Expeditions** on board **Explorer** take you on an in-depth exploration of Svalbard. This exclusive setting offers a personal experience, guided by **Rinie van Meurs**, an Arctic expert with over 30 years of experience. His deep knowledge and passion bring the Arctic to life through engaging lectures, where you'll learn about Svalbard's wildlife, natural environment, and history.



We offer **8-, 10-, and 13-day** itineraries, each designed for an immersive Arctic experience. Wildlife is our top priority, and we place special emphasis on photography. With two expert guides and two zodiacs, all guests can participate in shore landings at the same time. Under the **midnight sun** we have ample time to explore, no matter which itinerary you choose.

Our **high ice-class** vessel Explorer allows us to venture into the **pack ice** in the far north. The pack ice is where most of Svalbard's **polar bears** can be found and our favourite place to observe them hunting for seals. Beyond bears, we expect to encounter an array of Arctic wildlife, including walrus, whales, reindeer, Arctic foxes, and countless seabirds.

These voyages are especially designed to experience the Arctic in a way that respects our fragile polar environment. Travelling aboard a small expedition yacht allows for a rich and meaningful experience. This intimate setting provides flexibility to take advantage of light conditions and unique wildlife encounters, ensuring you capture extraordinary images. With flexibility and spontaneity at the core, this is an expedition in the true sense of the word!





SVALBARD AWAKENING

WILDLIFE UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN

DATES

- 11 - 20 June 2026 - 10 days/ 09 nights
- 20 - 29 June 2026 - 10 days/ 09 nights

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Spring season at its' peak.
- Snow melting, making shore landings and hikes possible.
- Remaining snow makes for beautiful landscape photography.
- Chances to spot polar bears in the fjords and on the ice.
- Tundra flowers begin to bloom.
- Thriving seabird colonies with bird chicks hatching.
- Arctic foxes trying to steal bird eggs.
- Walrus with calves can be spotted resting on glacier ice.
- Whales are more frequently sighted.

DAY 1 | START IN LONGYEARBYEN

Boarding takes place late in the afternoon. Departing from Longyearbyen, the ship will sail through Isfjorden, the gateway to the west coast of Svalbard.

DAY 2-9 | EXPLORING SVALBARD

In June, Svalbard comes to life with melting snow, blooming flowers, and incredible wildlife activity. Perfect for photographers and nature lovers! Some days will be spent watching wildlife from the ship, while other days you might go on zodiac cruises and landings ashore. Always keep your eyes out for Arctic wildlife, like walrus, reindeer and Arctic foxes.

Taking advantage of the ships' ice capacity, we will travel north, into the pack ice, where we hope to see polar bears and whales! Depending on the weather and ice, we will continue northeast, looking for more wildlife and possible landing sites.

DAY 10 | END IN LONGYEARBYEN

Disembarkation takes place after breakfast.

Tip! Experience the Summer Solstice in Svalbard on 21 June.

SVALBARD'S FROZEN NORTH

EXPEDITION INTO THE PACK ICE

Dates:

29 June - 11 July - 13 days/ 12 nights

11 July - 23 July - 13 days/ 12 nights

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Extended 13-day expedition for in-depth exploration.
- Multiple days in the pack ice to maximise polar bear sightings.
- Focus on wildlife encounters.
- Expert-led photography opportunities.
- Navigating as far as 80° north as the sea ice retreats.
- Exploring under 24-hour daylight to make the most of every moment.
- Peak wildlife season with an abundance of Arctic animals.
- Bustling seabird colonies.
- Visit walrus haulouts.

DAY 1 | START IN LONGYEARBYEN

As soon as the ship sets sail, you find yourself in a breathtaking Arctic landscape.

DAY 2-12 | SVALBARD & PACK ICE

You'll travel north along the west coast while enjoying zodiac cruises and landings in places where we hope to find wildlife.

We aim to sail as far north as possible, venturing deep into the pack ice. This ice realm is our favorite place, beyond the reach of most other vessels. An ever-changing frozen wilderness where we plan to spend several days capturing its unique beauty and look for polar bears in their natural habitat where they can hunt seals in summer. At the same time, it's a great place to spot whales as they feed along the ice edge.

We continue northeast, and into Hinlopen Strait, looking for more wildlife and places to step ashore.

DAY 13 | END LONGYEARBYEN

You'll disembark in Longyearbyen after breakfast on the final day of your trip.

TIP! Extra long voyage with multiple days in the pack ice to maximise polar bear sightings.





SVAlBARD UNTAMED

WILDLIFE & WILDERNESS

DATES

23 July - 30 July 2026 - 8 days/ 07 nights

30 July - 06 August 2026 - 8 days/ 07 nights

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Peak bird activity with chicks practicing their flying skills.
- Arctic fox pups start exploring and hunting on their own.
- Tundra at its' most vibrant.
- Suitable for longer hikes and exploration ashore.
- Bears and seals might be spotted in the drifting sea ice.
- Walruses at their haulouts on land.
- Algae bloom attracting more whales.
- Melt waterfalls along glacier fronts.
- Glaciers calving.
- Generally mild weather.

DAY 1 | START IN LONGYEARBYEN

Once onboard you will have some time to get comfortable and enjoy the views as the ship sets sail along the rugged coastline.

DAY 2-7 | EXPLORING SVAlBARD

We aim to navigate north along the west coast, towards the pack ice, in order to capture that unique feeling of being at the end of the world.

Svalbard offers a unique array of natural riches at the height of summer. Along our way, we will admire walrus haulouts, bird colonies, gigantic calving glaciers and vibrant tundra. Some days will be spent watching wildlife from the ship, while other days you might go on zodiac cruises along the coast or landings ashore. The expedition team will design your voyage from day to day, maximising your time in Svalbard.

DAY 8 | END LONGYEARBYEN

On the last day of your voyage, you disembark in Longyearbyen after breakfast.

Tip! The best choice if you have limited time and want to see the best of Svalbard.



EXPLORER

LUXURY YACHT



12 PASSENGERS



JACUZZI & SAUNA



A1 ICE-CLASS

Explorer was originally built as an oceanographic research vessel. The A1 ice-class polar yacht is designed for easy navigation through high seas and ice, enabling it to venture into the pack ice. This significantly enhances our chances of spotting wildlife on the ice.

Our polar yacht offers the most refined and high-end small ship cruising experience in the Arctic. With only 12 guests on board, it will feel like you are on a private luxury expedition! Explorer has recently been renovated to reduce its impact on the environment and the interior has been completely redesigned. Outside, you'll find several observation decks at various levels, perfect for wildlife and landscape photography.

ACCOMMODATION

We believe exploration should be paired with exceptional comfort. On board Explorer, all cabins have been thoughtfully designed and furnished with the essential amenities that will make you feel comfortable during your trip. The upper deck features two Single Cabins and two luxurious Executive Suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, double beds, and direct access to the outside deck. The lower deck hosts two Superior Suites and three Deluxe Single Suites. All rooms feature private bathrooms.

FACILITIES

The highlight of Explorer is the exceptional open-plan lounge and dining area with nearly 360° panoramic views. After a day of exploring the Arctic, our guides offer an educational lecture programme about wildlife, nature and other interesting topics. But your day doesn't have to end there. Take a moment to unwind and sip on a cocktail as you gaze upon the beautiful landscape from the sauna or jacuzzi on deck.

DINING

Savour the flavours of the Arctic and beyond with fresh meals served 3 times per day. The chef offers a diverse menu, blending local ingredients with international cuisines. Coffee, tea and water are available throughout the day and you will always find a nice snack in the afternoon. With its warm ambiance and expansive ocean views, every meal becomes a memorable dining experience on board Explorer.



EXECUTIVE SUITE

- Spacious suite
- Double bed
- Luxury bathroom with walk-in shower
- Desk with chair
- Floor to ceiling window
- Picture window
- Situated on the upper deck
- Quick acces to the sauna and jacuzzi



SUPERIOR SUITE

- Comfortable suites
- Double bed or twin beds
- Luxury bathroom with walk-in shower
- Desk and chair
- Porthole windows
- Situated on the lower deck



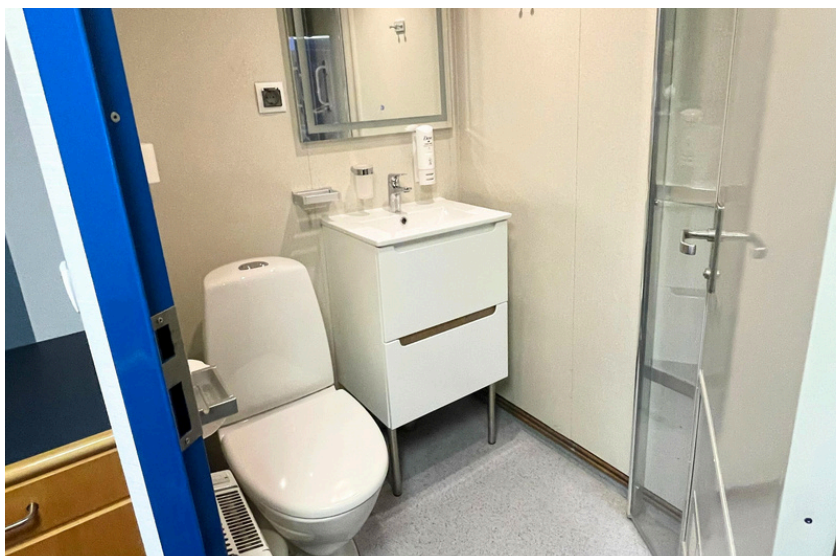
SINGLE DELUXE SUITE

- For single travellers
- Twin suite for private use
- Double or twin beds
- Luxury bathroom with walk-in shower
- Desk and chair
- Porthole windows
- Situated on the lower deck



SINGLE CABIN

- Comfortable cabin for single travellers
- Single bed
- Standard bathroom
- Desk and chair
- Picture window
- Situated on the upper deck



YOUR GUIDES

POLAR EXPERTS

Expedition Leader Rinie van Meurs has an extraordinary track record of over 250 expeditions across 35 consecutive years in Svalbard and brings unmatched expertise to every journey. A passionate wildlife photographer and polar bear specialist, Rinie has spent his life studying the Arctic ecosystem and sea ice dynamics. This inspired him to co-author the book: *The Future Polar Bear: The Impact of the Vanishing Sea Ice on an Arctic Ecosystem*. Throughout your expedition, Rinie will give his undivided attention to spotting wildlife, ensuring you can capture the beauty of this remarkable wilderness.

Rinie: *"The vast wilderness and the animals are the main reasons why I keep coming back to the Arctic. Using weather forecasts, ice charts, and past experiences, I carefully plan each trip to maximise wildlife sightings, without disturbing the animals. Being an avid photographer myself, I consider the light conditions and guide my guests on how to approach wildlife encounters for the best possible experience."*

Expedition Guide Szymon Niezabitowski studied Biology and Geography, earning a degree from the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences. He began his career at the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals but has always been a passionate naturalist and mountaineer with a deep interest in high-latitude wildlife and geography. In 2018, he fulfilled his dream of becoming a circumpolar guide and spent nearly half a year on Spitsbergen. Ever since, he has worked as an expedition guide in the polar regions and Northern Norway.

Szymon: *"The most beautiful place to witness polar bears is in the sea ice. We travel on a specific ship that has the capability to go into that environment. Strong, but also small, with outside decks close to the water in order to photograph wildlife at a good angle. We have no fixed itinerary and might stay in the same area for an extended period, at one with the environment. This increases our chances of seeing wildlife dramatically compared to standard expeditions on larger ships."*

Please note we cannot guarantee specific guides for any expedition, as assignments may change due to scheduling, availability, or unforeseen circumstances.



ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

VISITING SVALBARD

As of 01 January 2025, all tourist ships in Svalbard are required to adhere to new regulations. These rules have been put in place to protect the environment and safeguard an increasingly fragile wildlife amid the challenges of climate change and rising visitor numbers. We believe visiting Svalbard will remain an extraordinary experience and a unique chance to view Arctic animals in their natural home.

RESTRICTIONS IN PROTECTED AREAS

The most impactful new regulations involve restrictions on visiting protected areas:

- A limit of 200 passengers on board ships
- Landings are limited to 43 landing sites of which 13 will be restricted to a maximum of 39 persons at once
- The use of drones is prohibited in protected areas

These restrictions are of hardly any impact on our operations. Our expeditions take place on board small ships (12 guests), allowing us to maintain access to all of Svalbard's landing sites. Additionally, our high ice-class vessel Explorer allows us to explore the pack ice, which is outside Svalbard's territorial waters.

DISTANCES TO WILDLIFE

Stricter regulations will be enforced regarding the viewing of wildlife:

- Minimum distances from polar bears; 300 meters from July 1 to February 28, 500 meters from March 1 to June 30.
- Minimum distances from walrus haulout sites; 50m when on land and 150m for motorised boats with a maximum speed 5 knots within 300 metres.
- A speed limit of 5 knots applies within 500 metres from certain bird colonies.

Keep in mind, nothing will change in regards to approaching polar bears, which has never been allowed.

Providing the best possible photography and wildlife viewing, while maintaining a safe distance, is our top priority. Beyond polar bears, we always keep an eye out for walrus, seals, whales, arctic foxes, and birds not to mention the spectacular scenery.

Travelling to Svalbard means embracing the unexpected. We cannot guarantee wildlife, or influence weather and ice. But we can guarantee, with our small groups, we'll be flexible to offer quality time in the Arctic!



DATES & RATES SVALBARD 2026

On board Explorer - 12 guests

	Single Cabin	Single Deluxe	Superior Suite	Executive Suite
11 June - 20 June (10 days / 09 nights)	Euro 13.900	Euro 13.900	Euro 13.500	Euro 14.900
20 June - 29 June (10 days / 09 nights)	Euro 13.900	Euro 14.400	Euro 13.500	Euro 14.900
29 June - 11 July (13 days / 12 nights)	<i>fully booked</i>	<i>fully booked</i>	<i>fully booked</i>	<i>fully booked</i>
11 July - 23 July (13 days / 12 nights)	Euro 18.400	Euro 18.800	Euro 17.900	Euro 19.900
23 July - 30 July (8 days / 7 nights)	<i>fully booked</i>	<i>fully booked</i>	<i>fully booked</i>	<i>fully booked</i>
30 July - 06 Aug (8 days / 7 nights)	Euro 11.000	Euro 11.200	Euro 10.800	Euro 12.900

All prices are per person. Please [contact us](#) for the latest availability.

INCLUDED

- Accommodation on board.
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner. Starts with dinner on the first night, ends after breakfast on the last day.
- Coffee, tea and water throughout the day.
- Warm zodiac suits
- Rubber boots for landings. Limited sizes available, please bring your own boots if you want to be certain of a well-fitting pair.
- Shore landings and zodiac cruises.
- Use of sauna and jacuzzi.
- Lectures by the experienced guides.
- All service taxes and port fees.

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights & transfers. We recommend scheduling your flight home for the afternoon or evening at the earliest.
- All items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar drinks, etc.
- Gratuities for ships crew and expedition staff.
- Travel insurance
- Pre and post voyage excursions and hotel.

MANDATORY INSURANCE

Travel insurance with worldwide medical evacuation coverage is mandatory. We also strongly recommend taking out trip cancellation insurance. This will cover your costs in case you need to cancel your trip after you've confirmed your booking.

BOOKING

If you are interested in signing up, please inform us by e-mail. We require a 30% deposit to confirm your booking. Once we have received your deposit, your place onboard is guaranteed. The final payment is due 3 months prior to departure.

We accept payments via bank transfer or by credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express). The bank information and payment details will be provided on the invoice.

If you prefer to pay by credit card, we will send you a secure credit card payment request via e-mail. Please note, a 4% fee for credit card payments is applicable.

DISCLAIMER

There is no fixed route for our expeditions. The ice conditions and wildlife behaviour will determine our plans. The success of our voyages is based on realistic expectations and your personal flexibility.

Please note we cannot guarantee specific guides for any expedition, as assignments may change due to scheduling, availability, or unforeseen circumstances.

CONTACT

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Waterproof Expeditions is a provisional member of AECO
The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) is a membership organisation representing Arctic expedition cruise operators and industry stakeholders. AECO is dedicated to ensuring that expedition cruise tourism benefits the regions it visits, with a strong focus on the natural environment, cultural preservation, local communities, and safe operations at sea and on land. Waterproof Expeditions works with AECO operators and takes great pride in educating passengers on wilderness etiquette and visitor guidelines.



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