

MAX UNTERHARNSCHEIDT

PHOTOGRAPHY & EXPLORATION

CHARTER EXPEDITION · AUTUMN 2028

Svalbard in *autumn light.*

Around the archipelago on a small ship. Low sun, first snow and quiet fjords, with a chance of the northern lights.



DATES

30 Sept to 8 Oct 2028

DURATION

9 days

GROUP

Max. 12 guests

VESSEL

R/V Kinfish

FROM

Longyearbyen

THE INVITATION

An expedition. *Not a cruise.*

Join me for an intimate expedition into one of the wildest places on Earth.

In autumn 2028 we set out from Longyearbyen with one goal: to sail around Svalbard, as far as ice and weather allow. The busy summer season is over. The sun sits low again, the light stays warm for hours and the first snow settles on the mountains.

This journey is designed with photographers in mind, but it is not only for photographers. It is for anyone who feels drawn to wild places, to silence and to real exploration.

It is not about rushing from place to place. It is about time. Time to watch wildlife, to wait for the right light and to truly experience the Arctic. With just 12 guests on board, we adapt every day to wind, ice and wildlife and follow opportunity wherever it leads us.

I'll be guiding you personally, at your own photographic level. Together we won't just take pictures. We'll experience a true Arctic expedition.

Max

9

DAYS

12

GUESTS MAX.

6

CABINS

1

SMALL SHIP



THE SEASON

Why autumn.



01

The light

The midnight sun is gone. The sun travels low across the sky and the warm, golden light lasts for hours. Sunrises and sunsets return, a gift for every photographer.

02

First snow

From around mid September the first snow dusts the peaks. White mountains, dark rock and deep blue water create strong, graphic contrasts.

03

Quiet fjords

The season is winding down and far fewer ships are out. Fjords and anchorages feel remote again. A feeling of true wilderness that is becoming rare.

04

Northern lights

As the nights grow darker, the aurora becomes possible. Guests on board at this time of year have seen it before. A chance, never a promise, but a beautiful one.



THE ROUTE

Around *Svalbard.*

Our aim is to circumnavigate Svalbard. Sailing all the way around the archipelago is only possible when the sea ice to the north and east has retreated far enough. Late in the season, after the long summer melt, we have a real chance.

The east side is one of the least visited parts of Svalbard. Endless glacier fronts, waterfalls pouring from the ice cap and wide, empty coastlines that only a handful of ships ever see.

Whether we close the circle depends on ice and weather. Our captain and the expedition team decide day by day. That is why there is no fixed itinerary and no list of places. The best moments in the Arctic are rarely the planned ones.

We go where the ice, the light and the wildlife lead us.

WHAT AWAITS YOU

Wild. Vast. *Full of stories.*



WILDLIFE

In Svalbard, wildlife is not something you simply observe. It is something you feel. A polar bear moving silently along the shore, walrus hauled out on a remote beach, an arctic fox changing into its winter coat. These encounters are not staged. They are raw, unpredictable and unforgettable.



LANDSCAPE

Vast, dramatic and constantly changing. Glaciers calve into quiet fjords, fresh snow traces every ridge and the low autumn sun turns even the harshest terrain into something almost surreal. Every turn of the ship reveals a new scene.



HISTORY

The Arctic carries stories in its silence. Trappers, whalers and polar pioneers came here with little more than courage. Walking past old trapper huts and historic landing sites, you don't just learn about history. You sense how fragile and powerful this place has always been.



ON THE EXPEDITION

Close to *everything*.

Zodiac cruises

This is where the Arctic truly comes alive. Gliding quietly past glacier fronts and ice floes, approaching wildlife at eye level. The engine slows, the camera lifts and suddenly you are right in the middle of something extraordinary.

Landings

Stepping ashore in the High Arctic is unlike anything else. The stillness, and the awareness that few people have ever stood where you are. Whenever it is safe, we go ashore to walk the tundra, visit historic sites and photograph up close.

Workshops

Far beyond camera settings. In the field we work side by side, reading light, anticipating behaviour, refining composition. In the evenings we dive deeper into photography, Arctic history, wildlife and expedition life.

New: the hot tub

After a cold day in the Zodiacs, nothing compares to warming up in hot water on deck while the mountains glow in the evening light. Kinfish now has her own hot tub, and it has quickly become a favourite with guests.

Every Zodiac cruise and every landing is led by our guide team, with safety always first.



THE JOURNEY

How the voyage *unfolds*.

29 SEPTEMBER

Arrival

We recommend arriving in Longyearbyen the day before. In the evening we meet for a relaxed welcome dinner, get to know each other and prepare for the journey ahead.

30 SEPTEMBER TO 7 OCTOBER

The open expedition

We board Kinfish in the afternoon, release the lines and turn our bow north. From that moment on, there is no rigid schedule. Our course is shaped by ice, weather, light and wildlife. We move with the elements and adjust every day in search of the most extraordinary encounters and the strongest photographic moments.

8 OCTOBER

Return

Back in Longyearbyen, we disembark in the morning. Time to head home with full memory cards, new friendships and a heart full of Arctic stories.

THE VESSEL

R/V *Kinfish*.

Kinfish is a small expedition vessel made for the remote waters of Svalbard. Originally built as a sea rescue vessel and later converted into an expedition ship, she combines strength, character and comfort.

Her compact size lets us navigate narrow fjords, shallow bays and drifting sea ice, and reach places larger ships simply cannot. For a photography expedition, this makes all the difference. We have the freedom to follow wildlife, light and conditions wherever the Arctic leads us.

And because we charter the entire ship, everyone on board is part of our expedition.



12

GUESTS

6

CABINS

2

ZODIACS

1

HOT TUB

LIFE ON BOARD

A ship that feels like home.

Life on Kinfish is relaxed and centred around the expedition. In the survey lounge we gather for briefings, photo sessions and talks, and shared meals bring everyone together to swap stories from the day.

The open bridge

Kinfish has an open bridge. Whenever conditions allow, you are welcome to join the captain, look over the charts and follow how our course is set through ice and fjords. With its 360° view, the bridge is often the best place to spot wildlife and to feel what real expedition navigation is like.

Your cabin

Six guest cabins, all with private en suite bathroom and comfortable beds. Portholes close to the waterline let you watch ice drift by right from your bunk. With such a small group, the atmosphere quickly becomes that of a close expedition team rather than a cruise.



THE OPEN BRIDGE



SURVEY LOUNGE



GUEST CABIN



MAX UNTERHARNSCHIEDT

Expedition photographer & polar guide

YOUR GUIDE

Witness. *Not just observer.*

I'll be leading this journey personally. Over the past years I've spent many months in the Arctic and Antarctica as an expedition photographer, Zodiac driver and photo instructor. From the pack ice of Svalbard to the Himalayas and remote island chains, my focus has always been on authentic encounters, meaningful storytelling and respectful exploration.

For me it is not only about stunning images. It is about understanding a place, reading light and wildlife behaviour and being fully present in the moment.

On board I'm joined by a small team of experienced polar guides. Together we offer talks on Svalbard's history, polar exploration, wildlife and the changing Arctic, adding depth to everything we experience. In the field and on board, I'll support you at your own photographic level.

30+

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS

4

YEARS ON THE ICE

7

CONTINENTS GUIDED

YOUR EXPEDITION

Details & price.

30 SEPTEMBER TO 8 OCTOBER 2028 · 9 DAYS

USD 14,990

REGULAR PRICE PER PERSON IN A SHARED CABIN

EARLY EXPEDITION OFFER

Book before 1 May 2027 and save 5%.

Your price: **USD 14,240**

instead of USD 14,990, you save USD 750

SINGLE OCCUPANCY

USD 26,990 early booking USD 25,640

A double cabin for yourself, subject to availability.

Payable in three instalments: 30% on booking, a further 30% and the 40% balance before departure. Price in EUR on request.

INCLUDED

8 nights aboard R/V Kinfish, private charter

Full board incl. Captain's dinner, snacks during the day

Soft drinks, beer, wine and selected spirits

All Zodiac cruises and landings

Expedition leader and team of polar guides

Photography workshops, talks and lectures

Welcome dinner in Longyearbyen

Transfers between airport, hotel and ship

Waterproof one-piece suit on loan for Zodiac cruises and landings, worn over your own warm layers

Rubber boots on loan and a welcome package

Port and landing fees

NOT INCLUDED

Hotel in Longyearbyen

International and domestic flights to and from Longyearbyen

Travel and cancellation insurance

Warm polar clothing (layers, insulated jacket)

Gratuities for crew and guides (recommended USD 15 to 20 per guest per day)

Personal expenses

You won't be left alone with the planning. Once you join, you'll receive detailed packing lists, hotel recommendations and preparation material. And I'm personally there for every question along the way.



Let's go somewhere *together*.

I can't wait to head north with you. To travel on a small ship, follow the light, the ice and the wildlife, and adapt to whatever the Arctic gives us. To explore, photograph and learn side by side.

This isn't just a trip. It's an adventure we'll share.

GET IN TOUCH →

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