

## Arctic

### RUSSIAN ARCTIC - CHUKOTKA & WRANGEL ISLAND

#### Why join this Voyage?

- An opportunity, in true expeditionary spirit, to explore a remote, little known corner of the world offering dramatic scenery and fabulous wildlife, including walrus, whales and polar bears
- Includes extended time exploring Wrangel Island, a wild and beautiful land known for its high concentration of Polar Bear den sites, with good chances to see mothers and cubs
- Travel aboard a small, 48 passenger, ice-strengthened ship ensuring a very personalised experience and ease of logistics on landings, accompanied by a highly knowledgeable and enthusiastic expeditionary staff



#### Trip Summary

This voyage begins in Chukotka, a remote corner of northeastern Russia few people have had the privilege to experience. Ideal conditions for exploring are provided by the long hours of daylight and the retreat of the pack ice during their short summer. On shore you will have the chance to meet some of the indigenous Chukchi Eskimo people who call this harsh region home.

You'll see an great range of wildlife, including walrus and seals, rich birdlife and a variety of whales, all taking advantage of the exceptionally abundant resources this area provides. The culmination of this exciting voyage is a 5 day exploration of Wrangel Island & the smaller Herald Island, both isolated outposts now recognised by biologists as a 'Polar Bear Maternity Ward' on account of the high number of cubs born here. You will have the chance to land on these remote islands to experience the tundra and its wildlife, accompanied by the local researchers, giving an intimate insight into the islands ecology.

# Itinerary



## Day 1 London/ Seattle

Depart London and fly to Seattle. Overnight in Seattle.

## Day 2 Seattle/ Anchorage/ Nome (or London/ Moscow)

Fly Seattle to Anchorage and connect onwards to Nome.

## Day 3 Nome/ Anadyr/ Embarkation (or Moscow/ Anadyr)

Fly Nome to Anadyr on the charter flight which crosses the International date line.

## Day 4 Anadyr

Arrive into Anadyr, the administrative centre of the Chukotka for embarkation.

## Day 5 Anadyrskiy Bay

Weighing anchor early, you are invited to join the expedition staff and crew on the bridge for introductory briefings as we sail toward the Bering Straits, through the Anadyr Estuary famed for its Beluga whales.



## Day 6 Yttygran, Nuneangan and Akamchrchen Islands

Yttygran Island is home to the monumental ancient aboriginal site known as Whale Bone Alley. Constructed from immense whale jawbones and ribs to form arches, the site is of international archaeological importance. Cruise by Nuneangan and Akamchrchen Islands where seabirds nest and walrus can be found.



## Day 7 Cape Dezhnev/ Uelen Village

From the north easternmost point of the Eurasian continent, it is sometimes possible to see the coast of the USA from this remote and lonely outpost. On the beach there is an abandoned Soviet border guard base and a monument to Semyon Dezhnev, 17th century seafarer for whom the cape is named. Chukchi villagers whose traditional lifestyle remain largely unchanged by the passing centuries will show you their sculptures, bone-carvings and artwork.



## Day 8 Kolyuchin Island

Inhabited today only by walrus and seabirds this was once a Polar bear research station. Nearby are some of the most spectacular bird cliffs in the Arctic.

## Day 9-13 Wrangel and Herald Islands

The next few days are very dependent on ice and weather conditions but with a huge number of migrating birds and the presence of Polar bears and their cubs your days here will be busy. With sweeping tundra bursting with wildflowers and sea cliffs housing rookeries of noisy seabirds this area is a Nature Reserve of international significance. There will be the opportunity for many landings including the historic Dragi Harbour.



## Day 14 North Siberian Coast

Bounded by narrow sand ridges with numerous lagoons and inlets, this area offers plenty of places to land and explore a coastline that very few humans have seen and survived to tell the tale. Looking for walrus we will come across Chukchi villages whose residents scratch out a living in an unforgiving climate, hunting seals and whales just as their ancestors did.



## Days 15 Kolyuchin Inlet

So huge that it is visible on satellite photos, this inlet contains vast numbers of waterfowl and migratory waders including mighty Emperor goose and the rare yellow billed Loon. Grey whales frequent the area and we may be fortunate to spot them feeding only a stone's throw from shore.



## Day 16 Big Diomedes Island (Ostrov Ratmanova)

Sometimes called Tomorrow Island and Yesterday Isle the Diomedes are separated by the International Date Line; these two rocky outposts represented the final Cold War frontier between Soviet Russia and the USA. View Black-legged kittiwake,



Horned puffin & Brunnich's guillemot along with the northern-most colony of auklets.

#### Day 17 At Sea

Relax in the ship's bar or library as we plough across Anadyrskiy Bay, before a farewell dinner and expedition recap.

#### Day 18 Anadyr/ Nome (or Moscow)

This morning disembark port with a transfer to the airport or to your hotel.

#### Day 18: Nome/ Anchorage

On arrival from the charter flight connect through to Anchorage, please note you cross the date line so will arrive the day prior to take off hence day 18 twice.

#### Day 19 Anchorage/ Seattle/ London (or Moscow/ London)

Fly from Anchorage via Seattle to the UK on the overnight flight.

## The Boat



### SPIRIT OF ENDERBY

The Spirit of Enderby was built in Finland in 1984. She was fully refurbished as an ice-strengthened vessel in 2004 in New Zealand, providing comfortable accommodation for just 50 passengers, allowing for personal and flexible activities. One of the last of the former Russian small research vessels which still service polar waters, this class of vessel has a fine reputation for polar expeditionary cruising, due to her strength, manoeuvrability and small number of cabins. The expeditionary staff are made up of mainly Antipodeans, so the atmosphere onboard is relaxed and informal.

The Spirit of Enderby is not a luxury vessel; accommodation is simple yet perfectly comfortable. All cabins have outside portholes and ample storage space, with the choice of triple and twin shared cabins with shared bathrooms or private twins with private facilities along with superior double cabins and a suite. There are two interconnected dining rooms, along with a bar and lounge. The spacious bridge with open door policy at almost all times, flying bridge and main deck are an ideal platform for wildlife viewing. A small fleet of zodiac enable landings and exploratory cruising.

## Route Map



## 2012 Expedition Dates

Anadyr - Anadyr  
25<sup>th</sup> July - 8<sup>th</sup> August  
8<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Nome - Nome  
24<sup>th</sup> July - 7<sup>th</sup> August  
7<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> August

## Guide Prices for 2012

Cabin type	Anadyr - Anadyr	Nome - Nome
Main deck Triple	£5,925	£6,625
Main deck Twin	£6,600	£7,300
Superior	£7,000	£7,700
Superior Plus	£7,250	£8,950
Mini Suite	£7,595	£8,295
Heritage Suite	£7,895	£8,595

### Includes

- Airport transfers
- 15 day voyage based on full board basis
- All lectures, landings and guided services while on board ship
- Charter flight (Nome - Nome option only)
- Post voyage expedition log

### Excludes

- All flights (except Nome charter on this option)
- Landing fees \$500 US per person
- Accommodation in Seattle and Anchorage or Moscow
- Travel insurance, vaccinations and visas
- Gratuities and items of a personal nature
- Any additional Fuel Surcharge

## Notes

These prices are a **guide only** per person and are subject to exchange rate fluctuations and fuel surcharges.

## Single Supplement

For those solo travellers wishing to secure their own cabin a multiplier of 1.7 per single berth is typically used to calculate the single supplement. Please contact the office for a quotation.

## Flight Inclusive Packages

We offer a fully inclusive package from the UK to include international. Typically the cost of return flights from London to Nome in August is approx. £1,400-1,500 per person, based on flying via Seattle with British Airways. Flights can also be arranged to Anadyr via Moscow at around £1,000 per person. The advantage of booking the whole trip through Steppes Travel is you will then benefit from full ATOL cover.

## Visa Information

At all times it remains your responsibility to organise visas, although we are more than happy to help and provide the relevant supporting documentation. Visas are required for UK citizens for both Russia and the USA.

## Want to discuss this trip?

Please call Sue on **01285 880981** for more details or to check availability



Having spent the best part of 5 years on my “gap year” working in travel seemed the natural progression. I am most at home travelling to remote wilderness areas of the globe. With a life-long passion for wildlife I love to get up close either by kayak or on foot and learn the local bushcraft skills. My travels have taken me to all seven continents. Most recently travelling to the Russian Far East along the Chukotka coast and up to Wrangel & Herald Islands, where I was lucky enough to encounter 105 bears. I have also voyaged to Spitsbergen, Antarctica, the Canadian High Arctic and Baja California’s Sea of Cortez on expedition vessels, along with sailing the Amazon Basin and paddling down the Yukon. I hope to go whale and bear watching in Alaska next.

Sue is Country Director for Steppes Voyages  
[sueg@steppestravel.co.uk](mailto:sueg@steppestravel.co.uk)