

# VOYAGE TO THE END OF THE EARTH-FRANZ JOSEF LAND

## 26 JULY-8 AUGUST 2011

---

### KAYAK EXPEDITION NOTES AND ITINERARY

#### SEA KAYAKING

Be among the few to visit Russia's Arctic National Park on the remote archipelago of Novaya Zemlya and the 191 ice-covered islands that make up Franz Josef Land on this remarkable voyage. The spectacular terrain combined with a lack of suitable infrastructure makes travel to most areas difficult except by sea. We believe travel by expedition ship is the safest, most efficient and enjoyable way to unlock the secrets of one of the world's great wilderness frontiers.

Using our ship as a floating base camp, we hope to paddle twice a day, spending as much time on the water as possible. We will normally leave the ship immediately after breakfast for the first paddle of the day. Then, often after lunch, we will have time for a second paddle before returning to the ship for dinner. Most paddles range from two to four hours. We endeavour to have at least one extended paddle where we are away from the ship for most of the day. The flexibility of kayaking with a small private group ensures our own unique experiences, quite different from those encountered by the other passengers on board. Zodiacs will be available for extended shore excursions for those who do not wish to paddle on any given day.

Kayakers should be of an intermediate standard and have paddled before on outings up to 12 km in length. You do not have to be an expert or know how to roll but should have an adventurous spirit and recognise that the weather will influence greatly what we can and can't do. This is cold water kayaking and should not be your first paddling experience. You need to be comfortable putting spray skirts on, ferry gliding and have practiced support strokes. We have very little opportunity for instruction before we commence paddling, so we highly recommend that you have done some kayaking recently and in a variety of conditions.

We often begin our first paddling session from the shore and after that will be launching directly from the ship so you should be comfortable paddling on seas that could have up to one metre swell and some current. The water surface will vary from calm to wind chop. Your guide will assess your ability on the initial paddle and, if you have insufficient experience, he or she may not allow you to participate in rougher conditions. Our paddling excursions will not involve camping out.

For additional experience, rent a kayak before leaving home and seek out a local operator for some paddling tuition. DO practice paddling in a variety of conditions prior to the trip.

***We'd be happy to talk to you about your level of experience and may be able to advise you how to obtain the necessary skills before your trip.***

***Please Note: Along with your voyage booking form we require all participants to complete our "Sea Kayak Booking and Experience Form" and return it to us immediately to secure your spot in the sea kayak group.***

#### EXPEDITION NOTES

These notes will give you a brief idea of what you may experience on this remote voyage. Our emphasis is on exploring pristine landscapes, unique wildlife encounters and learning about the fascinating history that has shaped this region. However, we stress that this is an expedition style voyage. Our adventures and daily program will be influenced by the changeable weather and sea conditions of the region. We'll delight in taking advantage of these spontaneous opportunities and there is always an element of the unexpected. We ask you to join us in the spirit of expedition cruising as we discover this extraordinary region with you.

From the Russian port of Archangelsk, we sail into the White Sea and then across the ice-specked Barents Sea. At Novaya Zemlya we paddle around island bird rookeries where Arctic terns, snowy owls, geese and eider ducks are finishing their summer breeding. Then onto Franz Josef Land where



# VOYAGE TO THE END OF THE EARTH-FRANZ JOSEF LAND

## 26 JULY-8 AUGUST 2011

---

we spend five days exploring one of the worlds' most remote and unique landscapes. Amazing paddling experiences abound amongst drifting icebergs and icy lagoons, home to polar bears, walrus, seals and beluga whales. A not to be missed trip for modern day Arctic explorers!

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 – Arkhangelsk

You will be met at the airport and taken to view the sights of Arkhangelsk and Malye Korely, Europe's largest open-air wooden architecture museum. Board *Akademik Shokalskiy* and set sail for the White Sea.

#### Day 2 – White Sea

Tide and weather dependent, we'll try for our first paddle and visit one of the White Sea's Pomor (meaning maritime) villages. Formerly thriving, then nearly abandoned a decade ago, young people now return to renovate old wooden homes. Morzovets Island offers paddling, walking, birding and more Pomor culture.

#### Days 3-5 – Barents Sea

Sailing north across the ice-speckled Barents Sea, we have a fantastic opportunity to hear the stories of explorers Barents, Nansen, Sedov and many more. Spend time with our enthusiastic crew and staff, watching for Arctic wildlife and distant pack ice.

#### Day 6 – Novaya Zemlya Archipelago

Mountainous and shrouded in mystery, the Novaya Zemlya archipelago remains one of Russia's most restricted regions. Most of the archipelago lies within a closely guarded military zone, so we head north and become some of the first visitors to Putin's recently extended Arctic National Park. We'll paddle around island bird rookeries, on the look out for glaucous gulls, Arctic terns, snowy owls, geese and eider ducks.

#### Days 7-11 – Franz Josef Land

As we push north to the outer limits of the Barents Sea, an archipelago of 191 ice-covered islands rises from the horizon-Franz Josef Land. This group of islands was the planet's last major landmass to be discovered! Over the next five days we enter a world of exquisite Arctic beauty that few have seen. Uninhabited, bar a few Russian border guards, this is the land of the polar bear, walrus, seals and elusive beluga whale. Summer visitors include kittiwakes, fulmars and gulls. While the archipelago is 85 percent glaciated, the mostly ice-free shoreline of each island is unique. We may visit explorers' huts on Bell and Hall Island; Nordbrook Island's seabird cliffs; walrus haulouts at Stolichky and Appolonov Islands and Hooker Island's abandoned polar research station with its unpredictable polar bear visitors. Marvel at Champ Island's unique stone spheres up to 3m in diameter.

#### Days 12-13 – Barents Sea

As we sail southwest across the Barents Sea, we have time for lively discussions about all we've seen, to enjoy the beauty of high Arctic light and top up our tally of whales, seals and seabirds.

#### Day 14 – Murmansk

We enter Kola Bay for an early morning arrival into Murmansk, the largest city north of the Arctic Circle. After bidding the crew and staff goodbye, you will be taken to your hotel and on a city tour. After an overnight stay, you will be transferred to the airport to catch your early morning flight.

# VOYAGE TO THE END OF THE EARTH-FRANZ JOSEF LAND

## 26 JULY-8 AUGUST 2011

---

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF “VOYAGE TO THE END OF THE EARTH”**

- A rare opportunity to visit Novaya Zemlya and Franz Josef Land.
- Wildlife opportunities – prolific bird and sea life including polar bear, walrus and seals.
- Paddle where few have paddled before.
- Follow the footsteps of early Arctic explorers.
- Pack ice.

#### **THIS VOYAGE INCLUDES**

- Group transfers to and from the ship.
- Ship's accommodation. All public areas are open to all passengers.
- All meals on board ship.
- All shore excursions from the ship including Zodiacs.
- Lectures, videos, slide and film shows and guide services.
- Medical services. Basic infirmary on board.
- Port taxes and port charges imposed by government authorities.
- Pre-departure information and briefing.
- One hotel night in Murmansk.
- The trip price comprises the voyage cost plus a surcharge for the kayaking option. This surcharge covers use of a drysuit, all your paddling and kayak equipment and the services of a professional sea kayak guide.

#### **THIS VOYAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE**

- Air transport to and from the ship.
- Visa, passport and vaccination charges and airport departure taxes.
- Hotels and meals not included in ship cruise itinerary.
- Tips on board for crew and service personnel.
- Optional excursions not included in ship cruise itinerary.
- Laundry, postage, personal clothing, medical expenses, personal travel insurance and items of a personal nature such as bar charges, wine and phone calls.
- Emergency evacuation charges.

#### **SOUTHERN SEA VENTURES**

#### **HEAD OFFICE – SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

PO Box 641, St Ives, NSW 2075

Ph: (02) 8901 3287 Fx: (02) 8901 3297

International phone or fax inquiries: 61 2 8901 and the last four digits

Email: [ssvtrips@southernseaventures.com](mailto:ssvtrips@southernseaventures.com)

Website: [www.southernseaventures.com](http://www.southernseaventures.com)

MG 14/09/10



# VOYAGE TO THE END OF THE EARTH-FRANZ JOSEF LAND

## 26 JULY-8 AUGUST 2011

### SHIP DETAILS

*Akademik Shokalskiy* was built in Finland in 1985 as an ice-strengthened research vessel. In 1998 she was refurbished to provide comfortable accommodation for 54 passengers.

*Akademik Shokalskiy* is not a luxury ship, she is homely and strong, built to be a working vessel and refitted to a comfortable passenger standard. The accommodation is simple yet comfortable and the meals are wholesome and delicious. The mood on board is definitely casual. A favourite pastime on board is to stand on the deck or in the bridge, watching for wildlife and absorbing the dramatic scenery. A small fleet of Zodiacs, (rubber inflatable boats), with outboard motors enable us to travel from ship to shore.

Length-71.6 metres, beam-12.8 metres, draft-4.5 metres, cruising speed-10 knots.

Chef – European, Australian or New Zealand, Captain & Crew – Russian.

General Facilities:- Bar/lounge/library area, sauna, laundry service, medical services, dining area.

There are six classes of cabins on board the *Akademik Shokalskiy*.

**The Captain's Suite:** Double bed in separate room, plus foldout couch that can be used as a single bed; forward and port windows; lounge and table area; fridge; TV; video player and private bathroom, with shower, toilet and washbasin.

**The Mini Suite:** Double bed in a separate room, foldout couch that can be used as a single bed, TV, DVD player, windows, desk, and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin.

**Quad Private:** Two upper and lower bunks, window and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. Suitable for a family of four or a group of friends travelling together.

**Twin Private:** Two bunks, a desk, windows and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin.

**Twin Public:** Two bunks, desk, small washbasin, ample storage & hanging space, couch and a porthole. Showers and toilets are close by and are shared with other Main Deck cabins.

**Triple Public:** Two lower bunks and one upper bunk, desk, small washbasin, ample storage and hanging space and portholes. Showers and toilets are close by and shared with other Main Deck cabins.

