

Important! Final confirmation of the program is on November 30, 2008. Early Bird – EURO 600-00 pp if booked before November 30, 2008.

Icebreaker Expedition to the North Pole:

- Once in a lifetime voyage to one of the most amazing site of Earth where the South is all around you
- The ultimate icebreaking experience aboard one of the most powerful and sophisticated ships in the World
- Great wildlife encounters: rookeries of Arctic birds; walruses, seals; Polar bears might get curious enough to approach the icebreaker to examine it from a very close distance – often we get a feeling of a Zoo vice versa: with animals studying humans...

Ship: i/b “50 Years of Victory”

Itinerary in Brief: Helsinki (air charter) – Murmansk – **North Pole** – **Franz Josef Land** – Murmansk – **Helsinki** (air charter)

Duration: 15 days

Rates:

| Twin Standard | Mini Suite | Suite | Victory Suite | Arktika Suite |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>EUR</i> 15,990-00 | <i>EUR</i> 17,990-00 | <i>EUR</i> 22,990-00 | <i>EUR</i> 23,990-00 | <i>EUR</i> 25,990-00 |

Dates:

| No. | Start | End | Status | Language |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1 | July 23, 2009 | August 06, 2009 | On Sale | English, German |
| 2 | August 04, 2009 | August 18, 2009 | On Sale | English, German |
| 3 | August 16, 2009 | August 30, 2009 | Option | |

*Rates are per person in **Euro**, based on double occupancy. The rate of single occupancy is 1,7 times the shared rate.*

Important! Final confirmation of the program is on November 31, 2009. Early Bird – EURO 600-00 pp if booked before November 31, 2009.

Expedition rates include:

- 2 overnights in a 4-5* hotel in **Helsinki**, breakfast included (one night before the cruise and one night after);
- Airfares **Helsinki–Murmansk–Helsinki**;
- For charter-flight Helsinki–Murmansk–Helsinki only: group transfers hotel – airport and airport – hotel (in Helsinki), group transfers airport – ship and ship – airport (in Murmansk);
- Luggage transfers: hotel–airport–hotel and airport–ship–airport;
- Voyage aboard the vessel "50 Years of Victory" as indicated in the itinerary;
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by helicopters (as included in planned group excursions);
- Program of lectures and informal talks by experienced Expedition Team and guest lecturers;
- Four meals a day (including afternoon fresh bakery) and tea / coffee station with snacks and drinking water dispenser round the clock;
- Waterproof boots to borrow for the cruise;
- In-cabin: bathrobe and hairdryer;
- Informative pre-departure materials and expedition log with picture album on DVD;
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program;
- Special expedition parka;
- Personal complex medical insurance covering the risks of evacuation and repatriation (besides other risks). Coverage – 50,000-00 **EUR**. Insurance is provided by Closed Joint Stock Insurance Company “European Travel Insurance” – member of European Travel Insurance Group (http://www.eti-group.biz/popups_eti_group/pop_russia.html?de_erv_ident).

Not included:

- Passport and visa expenses (if required);
- Governmental arrival and departure taxes (if required);
- Meals ashore and supplement for single hotel accommodation (if required);
- Luggage and cancellation insurance, which is strongly recommended (may be purchased from Poseidon Arctic Voyages);
- Excess Luggage charges on regular international and local flights;
- Telecommunication services; laundry, bar and beverage charges aboard the vessel;
- Standard tips at the end of the voyage for stewards and other service personal aboard (at your discretion).
- Transfers to and from 4-5* hotel in **Helsinki** prior to and after the expedition cruise.

Day-by-day Itinerary

*Please keep in mind that this is a unique expedition to a remote and very little explored part of the globe. **Our sample itineraries should therefore be read as a guide only**, for they are heavily dependent on weather and ice conditions and other circumstances.*

Day 1. Welcome to Helsinki, a cozy Finnish capital.

Your independent arrival at Helsinki international airport. Independent transfer to the hotel – our representatives meet you at the lobby of the hotel.

Day 2. Helsinki – Murmansk charter flight. Embarkation.

After a short Helsinki city tour we fly to Murmansk (duration of the flight is about two hours). Having boarded the "50 Years of Victory", one of the most powerful ships in the world, we leave the city port via the Kola Bay.

Day 3. The Barents Sea.

While our ship is heading northwards, we are instructed on safety rules:

- aboard the "50 Years of Victory"
- during operations in the High Arctic latitudes.

Getting familiar with the ship, learning of her incredible icebreaking abilities and of how the ice is negotiated – all of this is on the agenda. The engine room tour will amaze you!

Days 4 – 6. Towards the North Pole.

In our case it's hard to say what is more exciting: this very special victorious feeling when the goal is achieved or actually the process of reaching the goal! The experience of being on open decks of the 75,000 horsepower "50 Years of Victory" battling her way through the hard Arctic ice is one of the most memorable. So are the views of enormous Arctic ice fields!

Things that might be done on the way to the North Pole:

- helicopter flights over the icebreaker while she is going through the ice
- walking on the ice field – if time, ice and weather factors seem suitable to the Expedition Leader

The lecturers of our experienced Expedition Team these days will be telling you a lot about the types of ice, the Arctic wildlife, history of the Arctic exploration and many more...

Day 7. The North Pole.

Today we expect to reach the North Pole. The Captain slowly maneuvers the huge ship to position her exactly onto the Geographical North Pole – this does require excellent navigation skills! After some time the GPS on the bridge shows "90° N"!

The celebration that started on the bridge will continue during North Pole barbecue – as soon as suitable ice-field is found. Now you know what it is like: standing on the top of the world. The most daring can take a plunge into the Arctic Ocean. You can literally have a round-the-world walk in our International round dance.

Days 8 – 11. Islands and archipelagos of the Russian Arctic.

In **2009** “Poseidon Arctic Voyages” celebrates its 10-year anniversary. During our operations in the Russian Arctic we’ve gained unique experience in exploring the Arctic lands. We are always pleased to share it with you!

On the way back we plan to explore Franz Josef Land archipelago. If ice and weather conditions are favorable – we might have enough time to land onto the Northern Tip of Novaya Zemlya; and, maybe, Kolguev Island.

Franz Josef Land Archipelago in brief:

- home place to Polar Bears, walrus and plenty of the Arctic birds
- consists of about 190 islands – most of them will remind you of Moon craters, therefore is called sometimes “Moon Archipelago”
- famous for its “mysterious” round boulders found only on one island of the archipelago (Champ Island)
- offers excellent exploration and photographic opportunities due to its vivid landscape and large number of historical sites

In **2009** there will be 80 years since the first Polar Station on Franz Josef Land was launched. This is polar station in Tikhaya Bay. We’ll do our best to have something special for this occasion!

At the northern tip of *Novaya Zemlya* we might visit Inostrantseva Bay. Photographers will appreciate the view!

Kolguev Island:

- the Nenets reindeer herders live here
- is a unique area in terms of wetlands and breeding and migrating birds (several species of geese that migrate to Western Europe in winter)
- unlike other Arctic islands, there are no lemmings
- is of interest to several International Arctic research projects, one of them is ECORA (<http://www.grida.no/ecora/about.aspx>)

Days 12 – 14. Barents Sea

You will have time to share your emotions with your companions and Expedition team and to comprehend that now you belong to a select group of people who have conquered the North Pole.

After disembarkation in the port of Murmansk we will fly to Helsinki to spend one more evening in the capital of Finland.

Day 15. Helsinki.

After breakfast independent transfer to the international airport for the flight home.

Please note: read this itinerary as a guide only; our exact route and program varies according to weather and ice conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

The Icebreaker “50 Years of Victory”

The nuclear-powered icebreaker “50 Years of Victory” is the largest and the most modern one in the world. This ship is the upgrade of the Arktika-class, the most powerful icebreakers ever built. Among new features of this icebreaker there are:

- spoon-shaped bow – great improvement in icebreaking capabilities;
- new digital automated control system;
- modern complex biological guard system of nuclear energy installation.

Being also a working icebreaker this ship is a lot more suitable for passenger cruises than her predecessor – the icebreaker “Yamal”: cabins are as spacious and comfortable as they are on the “Yamal”, but there is more public room on “50 Years of Victory”. Also, there is an elevator aboard.

Public areas include:

- large passenger dining room (accommodates all passengers at once),
- forward lounge,
- aft/lecture hall,
- bar,
- gym,
- sauna
- indoor swimming pool filled with heated seawater.

The Bridge (open almost around the clock) and wide open decks at various levels provide splendid views from the ship. The ship is equipped with the most up-to-date satellite navigation system and communication equipment, including telephone and e-mail. The "50 Years of Victory" also has a good library, a small hospital with qualified doctor.

Passenger cabins are all outside (with windows that open) and all with private facilities.

Standard Twin (46 cabins):

- 1 lower berth, 1 sofa bed, private facilities with shower, window that opens, TV and DVD player

Mini Suite (6 cabins):

- Sitting area with sofa bed, bed separated from the sitting area, private facilities, with shower, window that opens, TV and DVD player, refrigerator.

Suite (6 cabins)

- Bedroom and sitting area, sofa bed in sitting room, private facilities with bathtub or shower, refrigerator, window that opens, TV and DVD player, coffee maker

Victory Suite (1 cabin)

- Large bedroom and sitting room, sofa bed in sitting room, private facilities with bathtub, refrigerator, window that opens, TV and DVD player, coffee maker

Arktika Suite (5 cabins)

- Very spacious bedroom and sitting room, sofa bed in sitting room, private facilities with bathtub, refrigerator, window that opens, TV and DVD player, coffee maker, safe, selection of fresh fruit, drinks, and snacks, unique cabin amenities

Superb cuisine

Qualified chefs prepare varied international cuisine, and experienced waiters attend your needs. The bar has a large supply of alcoholic and soft beverages.

Technical characteristics

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Length: | 160 m |
| Breadth: | 30 m |
| Draft: | 11 m |
| Power plant: | 2 nuclear reactors, two steam turbines rotating six generators |
| Total capacity: | 75,000 hp |
| Cruising speed: | 21 knots |
| Maximum fuel storage: | 4 years approximately |
| Crew: | 140 |
| Passengers: | 128 |
| Registry: | Russia |

I/b «50 Years of Victory» belongs to the Russian State.

The qualified Expedition Staff, the experienced Captain and the Crew will do everything to make your voyage safe and unforgettable.

Unique excursions

The programs are developed in the way to give to the passengers the maximum information about Arctic regions and the areas we visit. The lecturers will deliver lectures and answer all the questions. Landings are carried out by helicopters.