

POLAR BEAR COUNTRY

Thanks to its conservation efforts and expert guides, the outfitter is the only one to have garnered a government permit to set up camp on this highly restricted ecosystem on the east coast of the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen. Timed to coincide with a six-week window when polar bears emerge from hibernation and ring seal pups—one of their favorite snacks—are on the coastal pack ice, this Arctic expedition combines low-impact snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and winter camping for an intimate look at the world's largest predators in their natural habitat.

Abercrombie and Kent: "Extreme Adventures Norway: On the Trail of the Polar Bear," 9 days; \$14,420; www.abercrombiekent.com. 