



Around Spitsbergen - In the realm of Polar Bear and Ice
21 July – 30 July 2024
M/V Hondius



M/V Hondius was built in 2019, as the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register standards for ice-strengthened cruise ships. Surpassing the requirements of the Polar Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Hondius represents the most flexible, advanced, innovative touring vessel in the polar regions, thoroughly optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica. Hondius complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety of Life at Sea). M/V Hondius is 107.6 m long, 15.3 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.3 m, Polar Class 6 (equivalent 1A-Super), 15 knots average cruising speed and has 2 x ABC main engines; total 4,200 kw.

**Captain Artur Iakovlev
and his international crew**

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Staff Captain: | Matei Mocanu | Romania |
| Chief Officer: | Sven Holzhausen | Germany |
| 2nd Officer: | Nino Cizmic | Croatian |
| 3rd Officer: | Giovanni Simone | Philippines |
| Chief Engineer: | Guntis Dizbite | Estonia |
| Hotel Manager: | William Jeroen Barnes | United Kingdom |
| Assist. Hotel Manager: | Albert Don | The Netherlands |
| Head Chef: | Gaurav Bawa | United Kingdom |
| Ships Doctor: | Michiel Bongers | The Netherlands |
| Expedition Leader: | Marcel Paul | The Netherlands |
| Assist. Expedition Leader: | Jerry Bitao Zhao | China |
| Assist. Expedition Leader: | Hazel Pittwood | United Kingdom |
| Expedition Guide: | Katlyn Taylor | United States |
| Expedition Guide: | John Yeh | China |
| Expedition Guide: | Julia "Bee" Baldursdottir | Iceland |
| Expedition Guide: | Valeria Sainz Herrera | Argentina |
| Expedition Guide: | Jens Biderup | Denmark |
| Expedition Guide: | Grant Hewett | South Africa |
| Expedition Guide: | Fran Housdon | South Africa |
| Expedition Guide: | William Kennedy | France |
| Expedition Guide: | Aitana Forcén-Vázquez | Spain |
| Expedition Guide: | Sven Joest | Germany |
| Expedition Guide: | Renno Hokwerda | The Netherlands |
| Expedition Guide: | Daan Vreugdenhil | The Netherlands |
| Translator: | Zoy Li | China |

Day 1 – Sunday 21 July 2024

Embarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS position at 16:00: 78°14.6'N, 015°32.5'E

Wind: NW2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 11°C, Sea Temp: 9°C



Finally! The day had come, it was time for us to board our new home for our newly starting expedition, the Hondius! We arrived at the port in Longyearbyen with calm, glassy waters. Some of us only had landed a few hours before and now we were about to start our adventure onboard M/V Hondius. The Expedition Team and Hotel Staff had helpfully brought our luggage aboard and taken it to our cabins earlier in the day. All that remained was for us to take a few photos of the ship while we made our way up the gangway. We were warmly welcomed by all the crew and staff who assisted us

in finding our cabins. With some time left, we explored the ship and enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee in the bar. Once everyone was onboard, it was time for the mandatory ship safety video and briefing. We were given all the information we needed such as moving safely around the ship, the things we could and could not do, and how to put on our emergency life jackets. Having learned this, it was then time for an abandon ship drill so after hearing the seven short and one long blast of the ship's horn we went to our cabins, got our lifejackets, and went to our muster station. Then we were led to our lifeboats so we would know where to go in case of a real emergency. After the drill we headed to the bar where Hotel Manager Will and Expedition Leader Marcel gave a welcome. With briefing formalities concluded, it was time to join Captain Artur in the bar to raise a glass in celebration of the voyage. Then it was time for our first evening meal, with a delicious buffet selection provided by Chef Gaurav and his galley team served by our friendly dining room staff. After dinner we were given our muck boots which we would use for going ashore; comfortable but also, very importantly, waterproof for our wet zodiac landings! After a long day of travel for most of us it was time for bed to get some rest before the first full day of our trip tomorrow.

Day 2 – Monday 22 July 2024

Location: Lilliehoekbreen (am) and Ny Ålesund (pm)

GPS position at 12:00: 79°02.7'N, 011°33.1' E

Wind: NNE-2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 6°C, Sea Temp: 7°C



We got our first Expedition Leader Wake Up Call, warmly announcing that a new day had dawned full of adventures ahead of us. We sailed towards Lilliehoekbreen, a glacier nestled in the NW corner of Krossfjorden, but low clouds prevented our views on arrival. On board we got the last mandatory briefing, picked a pair of Muck Boots, leaving us ready to set off! Just before leaving Lilliehoekbreen the clouds lifted and

exposed the magnificent glacier. The outer decks were filled with binoculars and cameras as folks snapped pics of the glacier and admired the passing birds.

Around noon we got out to the unique science village of Ny-Alesund, where the scientists from eight countries take measurements of almost anything you can measure in the Arctic. It was our first experience with Zodiacs! We walked freely through the quiet streets in between the historic houses, paying a visit to the shop, museum and for those with Chinese roots, a selfie with the Chinese Polar Institute, Yellow River.

Some of us took a guided tour to learn more about Roald Amundsen, the famous Norwegian polar explorer who started his life on skis, then changed to boats, then to planes and at last an airship. The “mast”, to which his airship “Norge” was attached, still stands at Ny Alesund and is reminiscent of this great piece of history. Walks were led by the team with Will and Jens passing on the wonderful story of the airship expedition. We spotted some great birds, Arctic terns, Barnacle Geese, Glaucous gulls, long tailed duck, Red throated Diver and even a purple sandpiper with a chick.

After a fantastic afternoon out we headed back to the ship for our first recap and briefing of the trip. Marcel gave us our plans for the next day and the team gave some insight into the history and working life in Ny Alesund. What a start!!



Day 3 – Tuesday 23 July 2024

Location: **Texas Bar (am)** and **Monacobreen (pm)**

GPS position at 12:00: 79°36.5'N, 012°43.8'E

Wind: SW-5, Sea State: Choppy, Weather: Overcast/patches of sun, Air Temp: 7°C, Sea Temp: 4°C



After leaving the safety of civilization in Ny Alesund behind, today marked the start of our real expedition! We began our morning with a landing at a site named Texas Bar which, despite the name, was not home to any bar but rather a quaint old trappers hut tucked amongst rolling hills in an ice-berg-littered bay. We split into two groups, with the first half of the ship going ashore

to enjoy a morning strolling at our own pace. Many began at the hut which, as we learnt from our Guide John, was built in 1927 by a famous hunter and his uncle and is still maintained by the Sysselman (Local government) to this day. The terrain outside the hut was covered in a wash of soft pink pastels coming from

flowering Moss Campions, a view enjoyed by many who photographed the flowers. Others of us spent time walking the perimeter, enjoying the views of the bay and finished it all off with a polar plunge! Despite reluctance by many the night before, the warm winds and sunshine on the beach convinced us to seize the moment and plunge into the roughly 3-degree water off of the beach. Shrieks of shock and laughter flooded the shore as friends and family enjoyed witnessing what for many of us will certainly be a morning to remember.



During this time half of the group remained on the ship and were entertained by Grant, a guide who provided an insightful lecture on the formation, abundance, and uniqueness of the glaciers around Svalbard. His knowledge was especially useful given that in the afternoon we had our first zodiac cruise to the very vast and impressive glacier of Monacobreen.

The face of Monacobreen glacier extends over an area of roughly 2.8 km, an impressive scene that we were thrilled to cruise in our fleet of zodiacs. The wind stayed with us but thankfully enough sun came out to warm



us up for the roughly 2 hours we spent admiring the glacier and seabirds that surrounded it. Calvings of various sizes fell off the glacier, each time creating plenty of excitement for those of us witnessing the wave that came out in front of us. After finishing the cruise, we gathered in the lounge to hear a bit about our plans for the next day, learn a bit about the history of some notable figures who ventured down here (William Spiers Bruce and the Prince of Monaco to name a few), and get an overview of the seabirds we would encounter this trip. It was a spectacular end to a great first day of real expedition cruising.

Day 4 – Wednesday 24 July 2024

Location: **A Day in the Pack Ice**

GPS position at 12:00: 80°54.3'N, 015°27.9'E

Wind: SE-2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Fog, Air Temp: 4°C, Sea Temp: 2°C

Today is our day in the pack ice. We awoke to foggy and rainy conditions and the ship rocking as it pushed through big pieces of sea ice. Hondius is built for breaking first year sea ice, so the bridge team lead us deeper



into the ice in the hope of finding the suitable habitat for ice-loving wildlife such as seals and polar bears. By mid-morning we had encountered several areas of ice too thick for the ship to pass and we had to change our course to go around the thick ice floes.

We also put on a great lecture program throughout the day. Hazel gave a lecture about polar bears in the lecture room – while John lectured on the same topic in Mandarin in the observation lounge to start off the morning. After an extended coffee break Aitana gave a lecture about sea ice

and ocean currents in the lecture room while John delivered the same topics in Mandarin in the observation lounge.

After lunch we had one last lecture session with Will telling the story of Fridtjof Nansen in English and John telling the story of Peary and Cook in Mandarin. We had some success spotting seals in the afternoon for those who were up on the bridge.

To commemorate our rainy sea ice day, we gathered in the lounge in the late afternoon for a hot chocolate before the ship starting making its way out of the sea ice.



Day 5 – Thursday 25 July 2024

Location: **Faksevågen, Hinlopenstretet (am)** and **Alkefjellet (pm)**

GPS position at 12:00: 79°38.3'N, 019°07.3'E

Wind: SE-4, Sea State: Rippled, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 6°C, Sea Temp: 7°C



After a full day of fog on ice day yesterday, we woke at 7.45 on a beautiful morning. However, it was short lived. Within half an hour the fog returned exactly at our initial landing site Faksevågen. The fog came and went. The sun shone on the very thin fog layer, so we hoped that the fog would lift entirely. That did not happen. Our Expedition leader Marcel decided to look for wildlife in the Hinlopenstretet instead. When

we left Faksevangen the weather almost instantly cleared. The fog stayed at Faksevangen while we were in bright sunshine. It was the only wise decision. What a wonderful moment to see a Minky whale when we only sailed for a short while. It was rather close to the boat but moved away from us. Many guillemots were on the water. At least that is what we thought. Later that day we discovered we didn't see nothing (Argentinian saying 😊). We journeyed south to look for the white fluffy ones. Unfortunately, the bears were not to be seen. We ship cruised the Bragebreen on the second largest island of Svalbard, Nordaustlandet.

We started lunch early, so we had extra time to one of the most extraordinary places we visited. The Cliffs of Alkefjellet. After lunch we made for the Auk mountain on a sunny afternoon. we boarded the Zodiacs and headed off towards the cliffs in the distance. We started at the waterfalls where we met the first few pairs of Brunnich's Guillemots of the nearly 60.000 that breed here. You could see the different colour of the ocean where the glacial melt



water was trying to mix with the water of the ocean. From the distance the birds looked like a bunch of mosquitos waiting for their prey. We soon discovered that we were greeted by the roaring crowd of Guillemots and Kittiwakes when we approached the main colony. We could get really close and saw many Guillemots. Swimming on the water and arguing with their neighbour on the really small ledges where they were nesting. We all could admire the wonderful scenery of the gigantic bird cliff on the dolerite rocks. Thousands of guillemots flew around the cliffs which were covered with nesting birds. We were told not to open our mouths in awe when looking up, to prevent the ingestion of special guillemot delivery! Around the corner we discovered a Glaucous Gull enjoying lunch with the remains of a dead Kittiwake. A little bit further down, we saw a couple of Glaucous Gull chicks. After some hours we were glad to step out of the Zodiac to warm our feet and hands.

With a warm cup of tea, we went looking for bears. Long and behold we found a bear on Faksevangen, pretty much on the landing site where we were to land this morning. We were really happy to see our first bear from the ship rather than in the dense fog from this morning. It was a huge male bear clearly just eaten



because of the red stains of bloody lipstick on its lips. We had some brilliant views from the ship while we silently approached. We all got to enjoy our first polar bear! What a sight, what a speed. It covered so much ground within a blink of an eye. We were all in awe and skipped the recap almost entirely to see the king on the Arctic!

Day 6 – Friday 26 July 2024

Location: **Islands all around Hinlopenstretet**

GPS position at 12:00: 79°12.8 N, 20°66.7 E

Wind: E-4, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Clear skies (later fog), Air Temp: 6°C, Sea Temp: 4.5°C

It was in the wee hours of the night that the ship left the sheltered waters of Lomfjorden to enter the more exposed Hinlopen Strait. This water was previously known as 'Vaigat' which translates as wind hole, but today it is anything but windy. The midnight sun is kind to us and casts its sunrays in bucketloads, leaving all searching for their sunglasses. This day is dedicated to 'expeditioning': browsing the horizon on the quest for wildlife. In the morning a few minke whales appear in the besides the ship and we pass by Ardnaset, where walruses are basking in the sun. Here and there walruses appear by the sides of the ship, while the Brunnich's guillemots pass by on their way home to Alkefjellet. In the background, creamy glaciers and pastel mountains make it looks like we are cruising in a live-action water painting.



While the galley team was again doing their best at delivering a varied menu (surprising the guests with quesadillas and pork), the team stood the fresh breeze on the Deck 8 on a search for polar bears. The islands in Hinlopen Strait are known to be 'bear traps', where the bears are stuck when the sea ice retreats at the end of spring. We sail past many small islands such as Nyströmøya, Smittøya, Wahlbergøya, Holmgrenøya, Obergøya, Wijkanderøyane, Palanderøya, Friesøyane, Von Otterøya, Malmgrenøya, Nordenskiöldøya, Wilhelmøya, Langeøya, Konerøya, Geograføya and Kiepertøya. The islands come in many different forms: from rounded and flat islets and shoals to elongated ribbons that shield sheltered bays. The shorelines are littered with Siberian driftwood. All islands – except Wilhelmøya – have their geology in common. They are composed of dolerite, a basaltic rocks that formed by magna intruding between other sedimentary rocks, which have long eroded away. Dolerite often appears as columns, which makes it particularly easy for sleepy bears to hide from inquisitive expedition vessels. After several hours, the expedition team manages to localise them. A sleepy bear is visible with the naked eye, but as it is hadn't had its morning coffee yet and shows no signs of getting up, Hondius leaves after 20 minutes. Bearing: northeast.



In the evening, we honour the 50th birthday of Rolando, our beloved bar tender. He is always willing to provide those in need of refreshments, served with a smile. Thanks, Rolando, for everything!

We kiss the day goodbye in the shelter of Bråsvellbreen, although this glacier does not make itself visible, as it stays shrouded in clouds. Unfortunately, this will turn out a prelude to the upcoming days.

Day 7 – Saturday 27 July 2024

Location: **Kap Lee (am)** and **Negribreen (pm)**

GPS position at 12:00: 78°03.5'N, 020°49.0'E

Wind: ENE-5, Sea State: Rippled, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 8°C, Sea Temp: 10°C

We awoke early this morning as we were excited to the day was to come. During the wake-up call, Marcel informed us that the place chosen for our morning landing was too foggy. So, for safety reasons we continued sailing to our next destination! We all attended the restaurant for a hearty breakfast.

Shortly after breakfast, Marcel made an announcement, a polar bear was spotted walking at the coast of Sundbukta. We all went to the closest deck to have pictures of this beautiful animal! We were just smiling with happiness.



After the exciting started of the day, some of us watched how the expedition team did the scouting around our landing. One more time, exciting news came from Marcel, one more bear was spotted! Now we know what an expedition is. The Plan was changed from a landing to a zodiac Cruising. The Polar bear is in Kapp Lee. Kapp Lee is the northwesternmost point of Edgeøya, a southeastern island in the Svalbard archipelago. Three huts are located

on this headland, one of which is known as Karosaelen, “the carousel,” for its octagonal shape. Built by trappers in 1904, this hut lies next to two others that were built in the 1960s as outposts for oil explorations.

We cruised the polar bear for a while. We were so excited! Nobody was talking, just the click of our cameras. It's a beautiful male! Afterwards, we continued our zodiac cruising. Some reindeers on the gorgeous landscape made us take more and more pictures. Sailing towards our supposed landing, we managed to see the huts, and some walruses swimming close. Some Eiders, Arctic Terns, and Glaucous Gulls made the view even more special.

After some well-deserved lunch we were ready for our next adventure of the day, a zodiac cruise in the special Glacier “Negribreen”. The glacier debouches into Storfjorden, in Olav V Land and Sabine Land,

and forms a wide glacier front with the moving extreme point Kapp Antinori. The glacier covers an area of about 1,180 km² (460 sq mi). It is named after Italian geographer Christoforo Negri. The Negribreen glacier has recently seen a surge in ice surface speed, increasing from 1 m to 13 m a day over the winter.

When a glacier 'surges', a large amount of ice flows to the end in an unusually short time. While the causes are not completely understood, they are believed to be linked to changes in the amount of heat or water in the lowest layers of the glaciers.

We spent the afternoon surrounded by amazing icebergs of different shapes, sizes, and colors. We picked up some examples of ice, just to look closer the nature of them. We had the chance to see the rare Ivory gull, and the rare Sabine's Gull. Some brash ice made our afternoon a complete expedition experience!



Time to return to the ship and have some warm tea or coffee. During recap, Marcel informed us about the plans for tomorrow. Kathlyn taught us about the walruses, how they eat, the uses of the tusks and much more!

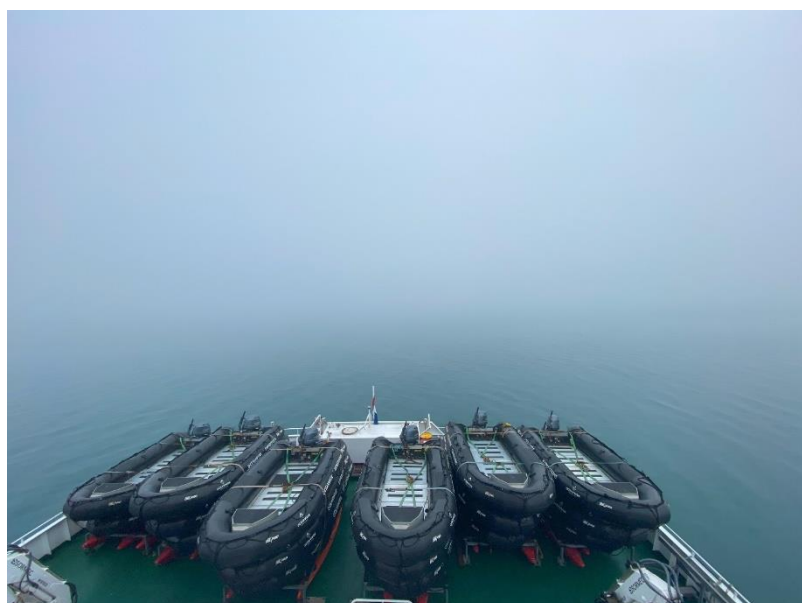
The day wasn't over, we still had a barbecue! It was a unique experience, not only did we have the opportunity of eating outside with the most spectacular view, but after the dessert, the expedition team and the hotel department invited us to dance. It was something that we are never going to forget.

Day 8 – Sunday 28 July 2024

Location: **Russebukta**

GPS position at 12:00: 77°40.6'N, 020°50.6'E

Wind: W-2, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Fog, Air Temp: 7°C, Sea Temp: 8°C



Our day started with Marcel's morning call at Russebukta, Edgeøya where he woke us all up and informed us that we got caught up in fog. This was immediately visible to everyone as soon as we watched out of the windows. Since we had still some time till the operation started, we waited at Russebukta and everyone enjoyed their breakfast in the restaurant. After breakfast we waited in the fog. Due to a change in the forecast we tried to escape the fog and sailed towards Diskobukta.

While we were arriving at Diskobukta Katlyn spotted a suspicious white spot on the shoreline. Since the fog was not too thick Jerry and Marcel dropped in a Zodiac to scout the shoreline.

Unfortunately, it turned out as fishing gear. While Marcel and Jerry were starting to make their way back to the ship the fog came into Diskobukta and within a very short time the coastline disappeared in the vast nothingness of the grey wall surrounding us. As there was no other option, we made our way back to Russebukta and Katlyn invited everyone to the lecture room for her presentation about cetaceans around Svalbard while John held his lecture on whales in mandarin in the lounge. After that everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch with freshly made Pizza.

After lunch we anchored at Russebukta. While we were waiting for the fog to lift, Will gave his interesting lecture about Andrée's Arctic balloon expedition in the lecture room while Johnny held a lecture about his life being a guide. At four p.m. we were still stuck in the fog and the decision was made to start sailing and make our way to Hornsund in southern Svalbard. Luckily the expedition team used its time wisely to create a quiz and many teams competed for the first place while enjoying ice cream. Everyone had a blast during the quiz and enjoyed this happening in the lounge.

After that Marcel invited everyone for the recap and showed the plans for the next day. Furthermore, we had a lot of questions to answer from the questions box and Daan gave a great recap about Ivory gulls. After that we all went to the restaurant and had an amazing dinner.

Day 9 – Monday 29 July 2024

Location: Gnalodden & Burgerbukta

GPS position at 12:00: 77°00.4'N, 015°57.1'E

Wind: W-3, Sea State: Calm, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 8°C, Sea Temp: 6°C



After several days on the ship without setting foot on firm land, locked by fog in our golden dungeon, we were finally let free. On this day when in 1890 Vincent van Gogh dies, we woke to a Goghesque landscape at Gnalodden. The sky was clear of fog and for the first time in a couple of days we could see further than 100 meters.

The expedition team wasted no time in taking the chance to take us on land! We were sent off on the zodiacs for our last landing on a remote and desolate piece of land where birds rule. The giant cliff towering over our heads hidden by the

clouds and echoing with the chants of thousands of birds, who, like us, were enjoying the gift of sight.

We were able to stretch our legs and visit the local trapper hut. A hut which used to house a famous trapper woman, Wanny Volstadt. She trapped here for several years, with her two sons, trapping over 80 polar bears.

Later in the day, after a short lunch we set off to Burgerbukta, cruising underneath the immense mountain side dwarfing our small embarkations. Along the shoreline we found wonders, many waterfalls, and underground tunnels where water shot out like magic. Further along came the glacier, which was losing its icebergs one after the other, all scattered and drifting in the long fjord.

As we returned on board it was time to part with our beloved boots before being called up to the lecture room for the captain's farewell.

A drink or two to loosen up, a well-deserved round of applause for all the incredible crew that made our stay so special, and we were treated to a fantastic slideshow from Aitana that highlighted in the best way the special moments of our trip.

One last wonderful dinner was enjoyed thanks to our chef Bawa and another round of applause to all the departments of the ship led by William, our hotel manager.

Day 10 – Tuesday 30 July 2024

Disembarkation – Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS Position at 08:00 - 78°14.6'N, 015°32.5'E

Wind: W-4, Sea State: Rippled, Weather: Overcast, Air Temp: 6°C, Sea Temp: 8°C

Slowly but steadily Hondius made her way into Svalbard's largest fjord, Isfjord. Sadly, time had come to conclude our amazing trip around this remote Arctic Archipelago. The week we had spent between the frigid waters of the Arctic and the barren although wildlife-rich tundra of Svalbard was beyond expectations; great encounters, beautiful weather, sea ice navigation, hikes, Zodiac cruises but most importantly new friends with whom to share future travels and memories.

With our luggage left outside our cabins ready for the staff and crew to take down the gangway, we headed to breakfast. After saying goodbye to the dining room crew, we took our remaining belongings and disembarked onto the coal pier. There was just enough time to say farewell to the expedition team before we boarded the buses and left for our onward travel.

NORTHERN MOST POSITION: 80°54.8'N, 015°55.1'E

DISTANCE SAILED: 1283.5 NM



Goodbye and thank you from the Expedition Team



Around Spitsbergen in the realm of Polar Bear and Ice

21 July – 31 July 2024

M/V Hondius

1. Krosfjorden (ship cruise)
2. Ny-Ålesund (landing)
3. Texas Bar (landing)
4. Monacobreen (zodiac cruise)
5. Sea Ice Edge (ship cruise)
6. Alkefjellet (zodiac cruise)
7. Faksevågen (ship cruise)
8. Hinlopen Strait islands (ship cruise)
9. Rosenbergdalen and Kapp Lee (zodiac cruise)
10. Negribreen (zodiac cruise)
11. Off east Edgeøya (fogged in)
12. Gnålodden, Hornsund (landing)
13. Burgerbukta (zodiac cruise)



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Marcel Paul - Expedition Leader



From his teens Marcel has been a keen traveller. After camping and trekking with friends, he led groups trekking to Austria, Switzerland, England, Wales, and Scotland.

His own travels over the last 30 years brought him to more than 65 countries on all 7 continents.

With his interest in history, ice, cartography, exploration, and as keen hobby photographer, the Polar Regions have always been drawing his attention.

At his first arrival to Svalbard in 2011 and a second trip in 2013, he felt connected with the remoteness of the place and the dynamics of the polar nature. At that time the idea started to grow to become a polar guide and give up a job that was keeping him indoor most of the time.

When the Dutch organised a scientific polar expedition to Edgeøya it seemed the perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge about Spitsbergen, the uniqueness of the islands and their eco systems by working with the scientists.

He joined the expedition in 2015 as field assistant and participated in various fields of research. In 2016 he spent time in the summer at the Dutch polar station in Ny Ålesund, again as field assistant. From 2017 Marcel has been working as a polar guide in the Arctic followed by Antarctica in 2018.

Today he still spends about half the year onboard with Oceanwide whilst sailing around Spitsbergen, Greenland, Jan Mayen, Antarctica, Falklands, and South Georgia. The rest of the year is spent either at his homes in Holland and Slovakia or traveling with his wife and their dog.

Jerry Zhao – Expedition Leader



Jerry has been in love with nature and wildlife and traveling all his life. Soon after completed his degree in Business Administration at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Jerry began a career in the travel industry. Jerry first started as an international travel consultant and tour leader and led exclusive small high-end groups throughout Europe.

He then became partner in an international traveling consulting firm and focused on route planning and employee training.

As he searched for more adventure, He collected skills and knowledge while he traveled around to world. Finally, his step stopped at polar regions, and joined Oceanwide Expeditions as an expedition guide. He has since guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia many times.

Along the way as he spends more time in polar regions and learns more, he becomes more and more interested in the polar regions. He has self-studied the geography, wildlife and history and is beginning to learn wildlife photography.

When Jerry is not in polar regions, he likes to spend his time in the forest, dessert, and plains in the Northwestern part of China. He loves nature, wildlife, and he loves to share all that he knows to everyone.

Hazel Pittwood -Assistant Expedition Leader



Hazel grew up in the county of Dorset on the South coast of the UK. A childhood spent pond dipping, bug hunting and exploring the countryside and coast nurtured her love of the natural world.

She has worked in practical conservation and community engagement roles for a variety of habitats, including heathland and coastal nature reserves. Hazel also has experience surveying rare protected species and is a trained wildlife rescue volunteer and marine mammal medic.

Whilst she is broadly learned about the natural world, Hazel has specialised in marine mammals and seabirds since 2014. At that time, she began volunteering as a marine mammal and seabird surveyor, collecting sightings data regarding these animals for UK based conservation charities. In 2017 she worked on a passenger ship travelling between the UK and Spain across the Bay of Biscay for six months, delivering talks and leading wildlife watching sessions out on deck.

Hazel has been working as a guide and lecturer on cruise ships for over three years. This role has taken her to Norway and Svalbard, Iceland, Alaska, Canada, the Faroe Islands, the Canary Islands, the Caribbean and Central America. She is a World Cetacean Alliance certified responsible whale watching guide, championing the highest standards of wildlife experiences.

The polar regions host an incredible diversity of seabird and marine mammal species, and Hazel looks forward enhancing your encounters with these incredible animals with her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.

Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide



Katlyn is an Expedition Guide originally from the Pacific Northwest of the United States. She grew up learning tidepool animals on the Oregon Coast.

She comes from a background as a captain and guide on whale watching boats all over the US. She has worked in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific for over 9 years. In 2023 she shifted her career to expedition guiding and has worked in Antarctica and Alaska. She has guided trips in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska throughout the past summer.

Her passions are facilitating experiences with wildlife, educating people about the marine life they encounter, and inspiring conservation actions among her guests. She loves the community that can be built around citizen science projects in these remote places in the world. Staying curious about the natural world and spending time outside looking for wildlife are two of her favorite things to do each trip.

She received bachelors' degrees from Oregon State University in Marine Biology and International Studies. She's a Junior Fellow with the Safina Center of Stonybrook University. Her biggest passion and love are marine mammals, especially whales. She co-hosts a show called The Whalenerd's Podcast, a science communication project about whales and other ocean related topics.

John Yeh - Expedition Guide



I was born in 1958 in Taiwan but have lived in Sydney, Australia since 1991. I joined the “Chinese Boy Scouts” from Junior High School level and continued with them until college. During these years I learned a lot about teamwork, camping, the art of tracking, wildlife, plants, amongst other things. I served in the Army for 2 year as a Lieutenant and spent time in the Gobi Desert orienteering, and really enjoyed this outdoor challenge.

I have a bachelor's degree in Engineering and worked as an engineer for 7 years before a complete change of career to a regional sales manager in South Europe, Australia and New Zealand. This work allowed me to travel to six continents and countless countries across the globe. Since 2013 I have been working in the tourism industry as a Senior International

Business Consultant and Polar Expedition Guide.

Due to the increase in Chinese travelers visiting the Arctic and Antarctic my work now primarily revolves around these incredible regions and I enjoy educating our guests as to the conservation and environmental issues at stake in them. I hope our future generations can enjoy these last great wilderness areas and I am committed to sharing my knowledge and passion for them with our guests.

我于1958年出在台湾, 1991 年移居澳洲雪梨. 初中到专校我参加”中国童子军”, 在这期间我学会了团队合作的重要性, 露营技巧, 野外求生及追踪技巧,野生动植物的辨识及应用. 服过两年兵役, 少尉分队长. 2013 参与两项戈壁徒步赛事及高中拓展训练. 我喜爱旅行及户外挑战运动.

我已取得电机工程学士学位, 有7年电子线路研发经历, 也担任过南欧区域业务经理及澳洲/新西兰公司总经理. 在这些年工作期间走访过27个国家及6大洲. 2013转换职场到旅行业, 担任公司资深国际业务顾问及荷兰南北极探险旅行探险队员.截至 2015年12月, 已去过南极7次, 北极2次, 享受跟旅客对话及互动的过程.

鉴于南北极旅行中国旅客数量逐年增加, 做为探险队员可以有很好的机会传递生态保育教育, 好让我们后代子孙可以欣赏到地球上最后一块野生净土. 这是我热衷的事, 希望未来能做得更多.

Júlía(Bee) Baldursdóttir

Expedition Guide



born in Iceland into a family of nature loving, tree hugging explorers, Júlía developed a love for the arctic nature and for travelling at a very young age.

Age 15 she moved to Berlin where she studied linguistics and later psychology.

Initially a side job in 2013, tour guiding quickly grew into a passion for Júlía and soon became a full time job, both on land and on sea. In 2016 she enrolled in a Tour Guiding Program at the University of Iceland and became a nationally certified Tour

Guide. For almost a decade, she has travelled in arctic regions, especially in Greenland and in Iceland.

It is probably no surprise that when she is not on a vessel, Júlía spends most of her free time exploring the world on her own. In spite of (or, perhaps, because of) the months spent in the colder region of the world every year, when travelling for pleasure, Júlía is particularly drawn to the sunny Caribbean, though of course her other big passion, salsa dancing, doubtlessly plays a large role in that as well.

Valeria Sainz Herrera– Expedition Guide



Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentinian photographer with almost seven years of business background. She grew up in Buenos Aires, which is the capital of Argentina, a beautiful place with a lot of culture and interesting things to do. Throughout the years she founds that one of her biggest passions is to travel. So, travelling as much as she could, she found in photography a profession that defines her in so many ways and gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations around the world.

Nowadays she spends her life between Argentina and Brazil; working during the summer season as a Guide for Oceanwide Expeditions and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island named Ilhabela in Brazil, working in the tourism area or in Ushuaia (Argentina) as a photographer at the Ski Center.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Argentinian Patagonian Andes or trekking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like diving, kayaking and sailing.

The Antarctic and The Arctic were always a dream for her, and now are part of her life.

Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide



Born on a farm in central Denmark, later working as an air traffic controller in Copenhagen for many years, now living near the coastline on the countryside south of the capital.

A keen interest in wildlife has been a lifelong companion, and the majority of travelling through the years has been to all 7 continents, where animal life- and behaviour was the main focus.

Whether it was swimming with the orcas in northern Norway, dogsledding in Finland, experiencing the abundance of wildlife in southern Africa or enjoying the magnificence of landscapes and animal

life in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Jens is a sociable and talkative person, loving to share all the experiences with our guests – and his enthusiasm has made him guiding friends and colleagues on several occasions.

He also possesses a deep interest in the polar expeditions – both to the Arctic and Antarctic – made by the brave men a hundred years ago, exploring the last frontiers by ships, planes, airships and dogsleds.

When not travelling, spare time is used enjoying the massive migration of birds of prey near his home, mountain biking, trekking in the Scandinavian wilderness and flying gliders together with all the predatory birds.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream of being an expedition guide, Jens is looking forward to his first season in the Antarctic with passion and enthusiasm, sharing the magnificent experiences that await all on an expedition cruise.

Grant Hewitt – Expedition Guide



Grant is a South African waterman with a deep love for nature. Originally from a farm in Zimbabwe, he relocated to South Africa's East Coast at a young age. It was here that he developed a strong connection to the outdoors, particularly the sea.

Grant graduated with a degree in Geography and Photojournalism from Rhodes University. He then went on to complete his Honours Degree in Environmental Water Management where his passion grew for Earth System Processes.

Grant now works full-time in the Expedition Industry, combining his knowledge with his love for nature. Grant has been lucky enough to work in many regions throughout the world including Madagascar, Seychelles, Antarctica, South Georgia and various areas in the North Atlantic.

Grant is also a PADI-certified free diver, sea kayak guide and National Sea Rescue Institute survival swimming coach/ocean educator. When he is not on expeditions, he is usually found in the ocean somewhere around South Africa chasing swells to surf or paddling through unexplored rivers.

With a true passion for wildlife and the natural world, he loves sharing these experiences and moments with like-minded people.

Fran Housdon – Expedition Guide



Fran was born in Cape Town South Africa and raised by a family of sailors, writers, and outdoor enthusiasts. After completing her honours degree in journalism, Fran went on to work as an environmental journalist and all-around media person covering climate change, sustainability, and technology for organizations and non-profits across Australia, South Africa, and the US.

While working remotely, ran a surf camp & lodge on the south coast of Kwa-Zulu Natal and spent time exploring and surfing around Indonesia. Since then she has spent the past few years working as a guide, zodiac driver and lecturer on ships all over the globe, with a heavy focus on the Indian Ocean and the polar regions.

Outside of this, she is a kayaker, plant lover, PADI free-diver, very slow trail runner, and enthusiastic naturalist. She is passionate about all aspects of conservation and sustainability and hopes to spend the rest of her life writing, reading and preserving beautiful places.

William Kennedy – Expedition Guide



William was brought up in the west coast of France in an Irish household. From a very young age he travelled to visit relatives on the emerald isle and the bug for discovering other cultures and lifestyles caught him.

Curiosity brought him all over Europe, working as a farmer in Iceland, building cabins in the Pyrenees, bartending in Scotland, carpentering in Norway and becoming a kitchen chef in Sweden. While living yet another adventure on the remote archipelago of Svalbard, he discovered the polar world and its famous adventurers.

He since then has been sailing the Arctic and Antarctic waters, blending his passion for history, storytelling, and travel by shining the light on unsung polar heroes, events and adventures.

When not on the ships he lives in Malmö, Sweden where he found a place to call home. Hiking and sailing are his main past times along with playing rugby and ice hockey, depending on the season.

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez - ExpeditionGuide



Aitana is a passionate oceanographer and adventurer, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as a polar guide. Originally from Spain, she spent 12 years in New Zealand, where she earned her PhD in Physical Oceanography— focusing on unravelling the mysteries of how the ocean moves.

Her expertise extends to large-scale currents, waves, ice and water mass formation, and climate, with an unwavering enthusiasm for discussing these topics. Aitana's conversations can seamlessly

transition from the intricacies of oceanography to her love for endurance sports and the art of knitting.

With a strong background in ocean-going fieldwork, Aitana served as the Principal Investigator for the Ross Sea Outflow Experiment, a groundbreaking initiative examining the export of cold water from the Ross Sea. She made history as one of the most junior-ever physical scientists to assume the role of voyage leader on the R V Tangaroa, New Zealand's esteemed research vessel, during an oceanographic voyage to the Southern Ocean.

Aitana's career has been as diverse as the marine environments she has explored. From driving a weather boat for two editions of the America's Cup as a meteorological technician to transitioning into the private sector, where she provided vital marine forecasts for port operations and Defence exercises. In these roles she has been a key player in ensuring the safety and efficiency of maritime operations. When adventure allows it, Aitana shares her knowledge with university students as an associate lecturer, fostering the next generation of marine scientists.

In her free time, Aitana is an avid open water swimmer, a dedicated communicator and content creator, and a seeker of unconventional road trips off the beaten path.

Sven Joest – Expedition Guide



Sven is an arctic enthusiast from Bonn, Germany, with a passion and expertise in the area of geomorphology. During his undergraduate study in geography at the University of Bonn, it was his semester abroad in Joensuu, Finland, that sparked his interest in the wilderness of the north and the arctic.

Since then, he has pursued his enthusiasm for adventure through several trips to northern Norway, and is currently continuing his academic journey with a master's degree specialising in Peace and Conflict

Transformation, at the Arctic University of Tromsø, Norway, which is the most northern university in the world. From here he is able to pursue his passion for the outdoors and the cold by skiing, hiking, and exploring these vast and remote environments.

As an enthusiastic hobby photographer, and an increasingly keen birder since volunteering at a bird nature reserve on the island of Fehmarn, you'll most likely find him out on deck taking snaps of the landscapes and the wildlife in his spare time during the voyage.

Excited to continue expanding his knowledge and experience in all aspects of the polar expanses, he welcomes you to chat at any point during the adventure about any questions you may have or your own polar interests and stories.

Renno Hokwerda – Expedition Guide



Renno fell obsessed with the crisp Arctic air after a trip to Greenland at 17 years old, on a route from South Greenland to Disko Bay. The Arctic grip never slipped.

Did you know that many seabirds can fly 10,000s of kilometres in one go, but can't cross this magical seal called the sea surface deeper than 1 meter? That puts things into perspective. Seabirds are these messengers of a different world. However, Renno's obsession started with the people in the Arctic, who eke out an existence out of barren lands and rich but perilous seas. Other fascinations are marine mammals, whaling history and physical geography.

Renno graduated in Environmental Planning and Geography in 2017 at Groningen University, and also took courses at the Arctic Centre. Later he moved on to teach the courses Life and Exploration of Polar Areas himself to the new students. His current mainstay is a desk job at the Netherlands Polar Programme (the main Dutch fund for polar research), which grants him the privilege to deal with Arctic research on a daily basis. It doesn't include fieldwork, so in the weekends hiking is a must.

In July 2022 Renno joined the Scientific Expedition Edgeøya Svalbard (SEES), to the relatively unknown island Edgeøya in Southeast Svalbard along with 50 scientists and 40 passengers. Earlier experience with guiding is aboard *Fram* and with IVN Natuurschool, which runs educational school excursions to the Wadden Sea.

Renno lives in Groningen and commutes 1-2 times per week to The Hague. The train forms a perfect cocoon for reading, drawing, pondering fulmar life, and browsing Wikipedia A to Z.

Daan Vreugdenhil – Expedition Guide



The Arctic and Antarctic are in Daan's blood. Although 2011 was his last visit to the region, the icy mountains, King eider ducks and Svalbard reindeer were never far from his mind.

His first visit was in 2004 at an age of 21 when he started ecological research in Ny Alesund, the world most northerly village. The research covered surveys on geese, vegetation, nest counts and measuring grasses. He returned for this research in '05 and '06. In 2007 he started guiding for

Oceanwide Expeditions in the Antarctic. Since then, he visited both poles until 2011. From 2011 he founded a wilderness and awareness school in the Netherlands. In 2024 he could not resist the call of the north any longer!

Daan lives and works in the Netherlands as an ecologist for Natuurmonumenten, a Dutch nature organisation. At home he loves to watch birds, walk large distances or go camping in wild European environments with his wife Mirte.

He is a keen birdwatcher and loves to see the Northern fulmar glide along the boat, the little auk squeaking on the rocky slope or the long call of a red throated diver. The conscious walk of an Arctic fox stepping on the smallest tree of the world, the polar willow, or a white Beluga whale in the water. He also loves to share the art of reading the landscape. Daan loves to speak about the large processes which form our surroundings. In short, he likes to take guests on a journey to experience the rich and well-adapted flora and fauna of the polar region.

What makes the polar regions so special for him is the pristine environment with the crisp air. This gives a feeling of being feral and free. The special adapted animals who live the tough life and feel at home. He loves to share his knowledge with you in lectures and even better, in the field!

Zoy Li - 翻译 (Translator)



Originally from China, Zoy has a major in tourism management with Bachelor's degree.

She has worked for a high-end tailor-made travel agency in China which focuses on travel to the polar regions since 2014. There she had several job functions: travel consultant, product planning, sales-support, tour operation and tour leader, and got many chances to lead groups to the Arctic, Europe, Central America, Galapagos, South America and Antarctica.

In 2019, she joined the expedition cruise industry, working as an interpreter and expedition guide on board, and has experienced a multitude of wildlife expeditions in various remote areas of the world. She is so fascinated by every element of nature, she has a great passion for sharing the most breathtaking scenes with every distinguished passenger to the polar region.

来自中国湖南，本科学历，旅游管理专业；

从 2014 年开始，在中国的一家高端定制旅行社工作，主要负责极地地区的团队运营。在那里，她身兼数职：旅游顾问、产品规划、销售支持、出团操作和出行领队；曾带领团队前往北极、欧洲、中美洲加拉帕戈斯群岛、南美洲和南极；

从2019年开始转探险邮轮，在船上担任翻译和探险向导。多次参与野生动物探险活动的经历，足迹遍布世界各个偏远地区，逐渐增强了她对大自然各种元素的迷恋，尤其热衷于极地，每年就像动物迁徙一样夏季回到北极，南半球的夏季回到南极。



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 21/07/2024

Day: 1: Longyearbyen - Embarkation

Welcome aboard! Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the bar located on Deck 5.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:15+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the **Restaurant on Deck 4**. All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**.

18:30+/- We would like to invite you to **Captains Cocktails** in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days and you will meet your Expedition Team.

19:30 Buffet dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming!



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 22/07/2024

Day 2: 14. Julibukta & Ny-Alesund

07.45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09:00 Please join us for AECO, Bear safety, and Zodiac safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

The briefing in Chinese will be in the observation lounge at deck 5.
The briefing in English will be in the lecture room, both at deck 5.

11.30 The Expedition Team invites you to **Deck 3** the zodiac loading area to collect your Muck boots. Please, bring your thick socks for the perfect fit and Please listen for the announcements as we will be calling you down deck by deck

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:00 We invite the **Red group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac landing at Ny-Ålesund. Followed straight after by the **Blue group** around 14.15 A map will be available at reception for you to take a photo of for orientation.

During our landing in Ny-Ålesund, you can roam freely on the roads within town. You are welcome to visit the shop and museum, but please remove your boots when visiting the shop. Please do not enter any other buildings without permission. Public toilets are available at the harbour office near the dock. Please turn off your Wi-fi and Bluetooth on your mobile phone so as not to interfere with scientific research equipment.

15:00 We invite the **Red group** to meet the Expedition Team at Amundsen's Bust for a 20 minute talk with a look at Amundsen's Mast.

15:30 We invite the **Blue group** to meet the Expedition Team at Amundsen's Bust for a 20 minute talk with a look at Amundsen's Mast.

18.00 Last zodiac will leave the shore.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for our daily recap.

19:15 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 23/07/2024

Day 3: Texas Bar and Monacobreen Glacier

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08.30 We invite the **Blue group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Texas bar. At the end of the landing, you will have a change for a polar plunge.

09.00 Grant invites the **Red Group** into the lounge for a lecture on Glaciers and ice in the Arctic. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

During the morning the groups will swap.

10.30 We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Texas bar. At the end of the landing, you will have a change for a polar plunge.

11.30 Grant invites the **Blue group** into the lounge for a lecture on Glaciers and Ice in the Arctic. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

XX.XX At the end of each landing, we hope to offer the opportunity for the brave ones to experience a polar plunge. Wear your swim clothing under your normal clothes. We bring the towels, do **NOT** bring towels from your room!

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

15:00 We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Monacobreen.

15:15 We invite the **Blue group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Monacobreen.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 24/07/2024

Day 4: Ice day

During the day we plan to be exploring the sea ice to the north of Svalbard in search of wildlife. We encourage you to be on the outside decks, the bridge, and the bow to enjoy this spectacle. Listen for announcements regarding and wildlife spotting's. If we have wildlife close by the announcements will only be made inside the ship to avoid disturbing the wildlife.

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

10:00 As we are spending the day in the national habitat of the polar bear, we would like to invite you to come and listen to our lectures about Polar Bears. Hazel will give one in the lecture room in English, Jonny will give his in Chinese in the lounge.

11.30 We would like to invite you to the lecture room for Aitana's lecture on sea ice. At the same time Jonny will give his lecture on sea ice in Chinese in the lounge.

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

15:00 Will invites you to the Lecture Room for a lecture on one of the epic Arctic expeditions in the late 19th century. This lecture will be given in English in the lecture room and again Jonny will give his lecture in the lounge in Chinese.

16.30 Please meet the expedition and hotel team at the bow to celebrate the most northern position of this trip.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 25/07/2024

Day 5: Faksevangen & Alkefjellet

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08.30 We invite the **Blue group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Faksevangen. This will be a perimeter landing with free roaming. Guides will be around to tell you about the landscape, wildlife, and history.

09.00 Fran invites the **Red Group** into the lounge for a lecture on plants and flowers of Svalbard. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

During the morning the groups will swap.

10.30 We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Faksevangen. This will be a perimeter landing with free roaming. Guides will be around to tell you about the landscape, wildlife, and history.

11.30 Fran invites the **Blue group** into the lounge for a lecture on plants and flowers of Svalbard. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

15:00 We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet.

15:15 We invite the **Blue group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a Zodiac Cruise at Alkefjellet.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 26/07/2024

Day 6: Expedition day in Hinlopenstret (Hinlopen Strait)

Today we are going to spend the day looking for wildlife on the islands of the Hindelopen strait. We hope to find what we are looking for and if conditions allow we will take you all on a zodiac cruise to enjoy the wildlife.

Sometimes, however, the viewing is better from the ship so please listen carefully to announcements and help us find what we are all looking for!

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*If we can take you all on a zodiac cruise the **Blue Group** will be invited to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 first.*

*Straight afterwards this will be followed by boarding for the **Red Group***

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

During the afternoon we will continue our ships cruising around the islands in the Hinlopenstretet looking for wildlife.

If we have been able to have some good sightings in the morning we are planning to take you ashore in the afternoon, but this depends on what we have been able to find during the morning.

So please, again, all help us to find wildlife: the more eyes the better! and listen carefully to announcements.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 27/07/2024

Day 7: Kapp Waldburg & Kapp Lee

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Please see below changed program due to fog.
Please listen to announcements!

10.00+/- We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Kapp Lee.

10.15+/- We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck for a Zodiac cruise at Kapp Lee.

Both groups will swap during the morning.

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

16.00+/- We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Negribreen.

16.15+/- We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck for a Zodiac cruise at Negribreen.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

19:00 Please join us outside for a special Arctic dinner, don't forget to put on your dancing shoes



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 28/07/2024

Day 8: Russebukta

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Today will be a different day, we hope to offer a long hike in the morning for those who want a good leg stretch.

The long hike is only for those who want to have a good exercise and there will be almost no time take photos and stop to look at plants etc.

09:00 We invite the long hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a long hike at Russebukta.

09:30 We invite the other passengers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Russebukta.

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:30 We invite the medium hikers to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a medium hike at Russebukta. This hike will still have some good speed and distance.

14.45 We invite the passengers that want to go explore Russebukta with Daniel and Fran to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3.

If you have been on land this morning you can not go ashore again!

15.00 We invite the passengers that went on a long hike in the morning to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Russebukta.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 29/07/2024

Day 9: Gnalodden & Burgerbukta

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08.30 We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Gnalodden.

09.15 Daniel invites the **Red Group** in the lecture room for a lecture on climate change on Spitsbergen. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

Both groups will swap during the morning!

10:30 We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck for a landing at Gnalodden.

11:15 Daniel invites the **Blue Group** in the lecture room for a lecture on climate change on Spitsbergen. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14.30 We invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck for a zodiac cruise at Burgerbukta.

14.45 We invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck for a zodiac cruise at Burgerbukta.

18:00 We will be collecting your muck boots at the shell doors on deck 3. Please wait for announcements as we will call you deck by deck.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team and the captain in the bar for our final recap, the captains farewell cocktail, and the slideshow of this trip.

19:00 Farewell plated dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 30/07/2024

Day 10: Longyearbyen

07:15 Wake-up call.

Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before going to breakfast, latest 07.30!

07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

PLEASE NOTE:

Upon arrival in Longyearbyen, we will provide complimentary busses to town in the morning at around 0900. We will also have shuttles from town to the airport throughout the day. Details can be found below, depending on your flight. All luggage must be left outside your cabins by 7:30am and we will move it to the pier.

- *For all those with **flights SK4491** please use the **Light blue luggage tag**. After disembarkation, please place your luggage in the luggage truck on the pier, and board our busses to the airport. The bus will do two rounds.*
- *For all those with **flights SK4493** please use the **Orange luggage tag**. After disembarkation, please place your luggage in the luggage truck on the pier, and board our busses to town. Your airport shuttle from town will be at 12:30*
- *Other flight or staying in town, no tag and take your luggage with you on the bus.*

08:30+/- We invite all guests to disembark, please wait for announcement.

Identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the right transport.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Hondius, we wish you safe onward travel and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us. We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.