



## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Longyearbyen – Longyearbyen

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025

On board m/v *Ortelius*



M/V *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland as a special-purpose research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. She was originally named “Marina Svetaeva” after a well-known Russian poet. The vessel was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions in 2011, re-flagged in The Netherlands, and re-named *Ortelius*. She was extensively re-fitted in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/V *Ortelius* is 91.25 m long, 17.2 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.4 m. She has ice class UL1 (Equivalent to 1A), 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER. *Ortelius* is named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the Theatrum Orbis Terrarum (Theatre of the World) in 1570. Her home port is Vlissingen.



## Captain Remmert Koster

[The Netherlands]

and his international crew of 53

Chief Officer:	<b>Sjoerd Van Hoek</b>	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	<b>Warren Villanueva</b>	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	<b>Ian Vincent</b>	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Alexsandr Bondarev</b>	[Ukraine]
Second Engineer:	<b>Jhunwel Yuzon</b>	[Phillipines]
Hotel Manager:	<b>William Barnes</b>	[The Netherlands]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	<b>Bogdan 'Bobi' Manevski</b>	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	<b>Felix Lobo</b>	[India]
Sous Chef:	<b>Sergiy Sklyarov</b>	[Ukraine]
Bosun:	<b>Eniano Agarin</b>	[Philippines]
Bosun:	<b>Philip Malang</b>	[Philippines]
Bartender:	<b>Jake Montevirgen</b>	[Philippines]
Ship's doctor:	<b>Kenneth Lo</b>	[Hong Kong]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Adam Burke</b>	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	<b>Hazel Pittwood</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Mark Whiffen</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Marcelo Tarapow</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gabi Kolodko</b>	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Matt Cheok</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Aitana Forcén Vazquez</b>	[Spain]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Rao Xingpeng</b>	[China]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Koen Jongerling</b>	[The Netherlands]
Translator	<b>Yu Kan Cheng</b>	[China]

**WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!**

## Day 1 – Thursday 3 July, Longyearbyen, Embarkation Day

16:00 GPS Position: 78°22.3' N / 015°64.7' E

Wind: SSW 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +9°C

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Today marked the beginning of our Arctic adventure aboard m/v *Ortelius*! After a morning of final preparations, we anchored just offshore from Longyearbyen and waited with quiet excitement for our new guests to arrive. At 4pm, Zodiacs began shuttling each of us from the jetty to the ship, offering a first close-up glimpse of the vessel that will be our home in the coming days. The skies were slightly overcast, casting a moody veil across the landscape and adding a touch of drama and mystery to the atmosphere.

Once all guests and luggage were safely on board, we gathered on Level 6 for an official welcome and a mandatory safety briefing held out on the top deck. This was followed by the Captain's Cocktail in the bar, where we were introduced to Captain Remmert and our Expedition Leader, Adam. Glasses of bubbly were passed around alongside a tasty selection of sliders to keep hunger at bay.





Dinner was served as a buffet in the dining room, hosted by Hotel Manager William, who warmly welcomed us and invited everyone to enjoy the spread. The meal was generous and varied, giving everyone a chance to relax into life on board and enjoy a full belly before heading back upstairs for additional briefings.

By 8.30 pm, with a noticeable increase in swell, we regrouped for mandatory bear and rifle safety briefings. As the vessel began to roll more heavily, seasickness crept in for many. The hotel staff and expedition team moved quickly to support those struggling, offering assistance with calm and care. Doctor Ken remained busy well into the night, tending to those most affected.



Even so, nature offered a parting gift from Isfjorden as we sailed north: sightings of both a humpback whale and a pair of blues eased the discomfort and reminded us why we were here. The wind and swell may have made things challenging, but this was a fitting introduction to expedition life, and a raw reminder of the wildness ahead and the power of the polar seas.



## Day 2 – Friday 4 July, Ny Ålesund, Ny London

12:00 GPS Position: 78°56.2.'N / 011°54.9'E

Wind: E 2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +4.7°C

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This morning we woke up to bright Arctic light and the stillness of Ny Ålesund, one of the northernmost settlements in the world! We roamed freely through its colourful wooden buildings, scientific stations, and wide-open surroundings. The air was crisp, and the sense of remoteness palpable. We visited the small but rich museum and the local shop stocked with postcards, Arctic trinkets, and reminders of human resilience in this far-off place.



Marcelo and Gabi led us on a walk out toward the historic airship mast, where Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile launched their daring flights to the North Pole. Standing at that spot, with the wind brushing across the tundra and the ghosts of polar explorers in mind, it was easy to feel the weight of history.

Nature did not disappoint. Reindeer grazed near the edges of town, and Arctic terns circled above, their sharp cries filling the air. Some of us were lucky enough to spot a fox resting near the outskirts, its fur blending into the terrain. Along the way, we also observed barnacle geese with goslings waddling in tow, which was a heartwarming sight in this wild landscape.



After returning to the ship for a hearty and well-earned lunch, we set off again, this time to Ny-London. This long perimeter landing rewarded us with sweeping views of the bay and another chance to connect with Svalbard's wildlife. We spotted long-tailed skuas gliding overhead, a purple sandpiper guarding her chicks, and more barnacle geese dotting the rocky terrain.





As the day came to a close, we gathered for recaps with Hazel, Koen, and Rao. Hazel took us through the complex world of whale identification, Koen unpacked the fascinating geology of Svalbard, and Rao gave us fresh appreciation for the tireless Arctic tern and its epic migratory journey.

With minds full and hearts open, we turn in wondering: what will tomorrow bring?

### Day 3 – Saturday 5 July, Monacobreen and Texas Bar

12:00 GPS Position: 79°32.2'N / 012°28.8'E

Wind: VAR-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +6.6°C

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Today our day could not have started any better. Right at the wake-up call, Adam announced that we had spotted a polar bear on the coastline. Immediately, everybody woke up, dressed quickly and headed to the outer decks. This beautiful yellowish polar bear was indeed sitting on the coastline in clear sight. Well, it was very good if you were looking through binoculars or a camera with a good zoom. The bear started swimming after a while, so Adam chose for the team to launch the Zodiacs right after breakfast to see the bear from closer.



All Zodiacs proceeded in a line towards the coastline where the bear was hunkered down in a patch of green with many flowers. It was a beautiful sight seeing the bear surrounded by so many different colours. She was not too curious about us and simply observed. She started walking towards Idabreen so we watched her for a while walking around the corner to the glacier. This is where she dug a comfortable spot for herself and fell asleep. It was a perfect ending for us as we headed out towards Selegersbreen and Monacobreen.

There was a lot of brash ice floating around the two glaciers. Beautiful deep blue icebergs were lying all over the fjord. Some had the chance to see a bearded seal swimming. Getting closer to Selegersbreen we could see many black-legged kittiwakes sitting on the icebergs. They were waiting for a calving to happen to feed small fish that could come up after calvings. The glacier was very active and many calvings happened in a short time. One event was so big that a large tidal wave was created and was felt inside the Zodiac! Monacobreen was also quite active. We were able to observe how some of the icebergs were born. There must have been at least 1,000 kittiwakes flying around the glacier front. Between the kittiwakes there were also a few Ivory gulls which were only visible for the keen birder eyes.





In the afternoon we landed at Texas bar, built by Hilmar Nois. A known hunter from the early 20th century used the hut to hunt polar bears and Arctic foxes during the wintertime. All groups went a bit inland to explore the nearby surroundings.



There were many different flowers to be found like the white mountain avens and the purple cushion moss campion. There were many Arctic skuas nesting in the area and if you did not watch where you were going you would be attacked by them. Luckily the guides knew how to avoid their nesting grounds. This afternoon there was also a polar plunge organized. Many brave souls jumped into the ice-cold arctic water. The short and medium-sized hiking group started first with some 15 people. Afterwards the long hiking group came down from their 3-hour long hike through the high hills and also joined another 15 people. A memorable experience!

In the evening, we had the recap before dinner where Adam explained the following day. Marcelo explained who Abraham Ortelius was, and whom the ship is named after. All together, an amazing day with many incredible experiences. Dinner was a welcome ending to the day to replenish our energy levels again.

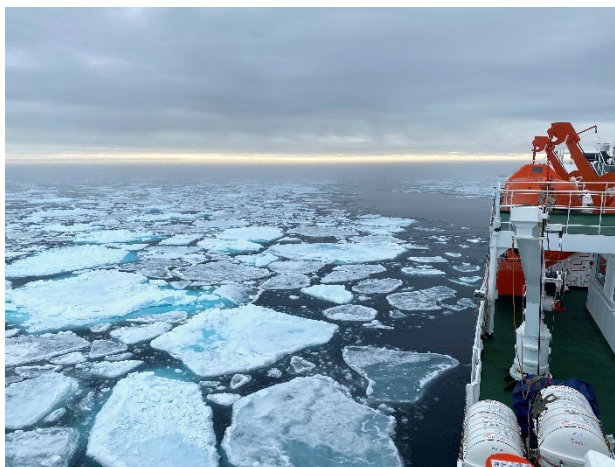
## Day 4 – Sunday 6 July, Into the Pack Ice

12:00 GPS Position: 81°54.1'N / 017°13.2'E

Wind: SE5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +1.7°C

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The morning began seemingly in a dream. A light fog drifted over the horizon, softening the stark contrast of sea and sky, and we found ourselves slipping quietly into the ethereal world of the pack ice. Everything was hushed, the kind of stillness that only ice and distant places can hold, interrupted only by the occasional crackle of ice shifting and the low rumble of the ship as it made its way through the ice. The silence made every movement feel profound, every sight unforgettable. Here, in this frozen expanse, life reveals itself in subtle tracks and sudden flashes of motion. We spotted trails carved into the snow by seals, all quiet reminders of life above and below the ice.



The day was rich with learning. In the morning, Koen delivered a fascinating lecture on polar bears, the rulers of this icy kingdom. And, coincidentally, the lecture was interrupted by the rulers themselves: two polar bears feasting on the carcass of a sperm whale, a rare and dramatic spectacle of Arctic survival. The scene was powerful, brutal and beautiful, reminding us of the raw realities that govern life out here. Ivory and glaucous gulls along with fulmars provided the supporting cast scavenging on scraps.



Later, Aitana shared her deep knowledge with a lecture on sea ice itself, revealing the science and patterns hidden within the frozen landscape. As if with impeccable timing, a third polar bear was found ambling across the ice at the end of the lecture.

In the afternoon, Mark guided us through the winged life of Svalbard, from guillemots to the elusive ivory gull. Then, something extraordinary: as we slowly edged away towards the end of the pack ice in the late afternoon, a fourth bear was spotted curled

up, sleeping peacefully at the edge of the pack ice, the picture of quiet contentment in a harsh world.

As evening settled in, we gathered for a look ahead. Plans for tomorrow were discussed with excitement, followed by a pause to reflect on the day's exceptional sightings. For recap, Hazel offered a short showcase of Arctic seals, followed by Rao delving into the complex behaviours of polar bears.

Our sightings today mirrored the lectures in a way that felt almost orchestrated, however today was more than a day of sightings; it was a deep dive into the heart of the polar world — its silence, science, and splendour.



## Day 5 – Monday 7 July, Torellneset & Alkefjellet

12:00 GPS Position: 79°25.1'N / 020°07.5'E

Wind: SSE6 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Fog • Air Temperature: -1.5°C

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After a lucky sighting of four polar bears on the ice yesterday, *Ortelius* sailed through the night to reach the central waters of Svalbard. As forecasted, the entire archipelago was shrouded in thick mist from early morning, and we planned a special Zodiac cruise to make the most of it.



After the Expedition Team launched the Zodiacs at Torellneset, we navigated through half-metre swells with visibility down to less than 200 metres. As we slowly travelled south along the foot of the ice cap on the west coast of Austfonna, a herd of lazy walrus came into view near the cape. They hardly seemed to move at all, yet their comical expressions while resting left a lasting impression. From time to time they lifted their heads, rolled over on the beach, and made low, peculiar noises.

Around the cape, the wind was strong and the currents unpredictable, often pushing the bow of the Zodiac in different directions. Photographers on board struggled to find a stable moment to press the shutter, while those with binoculars focused intently on every detail of the walrus' behaviour. This is the essence of expedition travel, reminiscent of the early explorers who pushed through mist and mystery in search of untouched corners of the sea.

After lunch, we crossed the channel to Alkefjellet, the renowned bird cliffs whose name means "mount guillemot". Located within the Nordaust Svalbard Nature Reserve, these cliffs are a dramatic and important nesting site for thousands of black-legged kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots. The geological formations of the cliffs themselves are equally impressive.







Our Zodiac cruise began on the south-east side. During this height of the Arctic summer, the snow atop the cliffs is steadily melting, sending streams of clear water down the heavily weathered basalt faces. This is a crucial time in the seabird breeding season. Birds that have migrated here to breed are seizing every opportunity to feed, as they progress through egg-laying, chick-rearing, and preparation for their return journeys in the coming months. Meanwhile, their predators, the glaucous gulls, were also active, preying on the vulnerable guillemots.

We spent some time admiring the shallow waters in front of the glacier before returning to *Ortelius* through the lingering mist.

## Day 6 – Tuesday 8 July, Revnosa and Boltodden

12:00 GPS Position: 78°00.8'N / 018°43.6'E

Wind: NE4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temperature: +6.3°C

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The morning greeted us with perfect conditions for a walk through a picturesque meadow, carpeted with moss and dotted with a variety of small, colourful flowers. Along the way, we came across a couple of huts, one built in the 1930s by trappers and the other owned by the Svalbard authorities.

The long and medium hiking groups set off shortly after. Within minutes, we encountered a variety of birds and more flowering plants. We also found ourselves crossing an area of extremely sticky mud that nearly halted our progress. But with reindeer already in sight, we pressed on, eventually leaving the mud and gravel behind.

Two reindeer approached us curiously. The group remained silent and still, observing from a respectful distance. We quietly admired both the proud adult reindeer and the younger one at its side.

The return journey was easier, some descended the hill, while others followed the meltwater





streams and coastal edge. A mountain reflected its majestic form in a small lagoon, like a perfect mirror. Slowly, we made our way back to the landing site, recharged and with hundreds more photographs captured on our cameras.

In the afternoon, the weather turned slightly colder, but our enthusiasm to explore these ancient lands, once home to dinosaurs, kept us focused. We scanned the stones beneath our feet, finding traces and evidence from the Jurassic era with each step.

The descent and landing site near the Zodiacs had been carefully considered earlier, and a stable ladder was improvised over the snow to assist with the arrival. During the hike, we discussed various theories about the dinosaurs that once roamed this region, their species, behaviour, diets, sizes and ultimate fate.



© Matt Cheok

Centuries later, this same area became a popular hunting ground for Arctic foxes. As we returned to the ship, we reflected on the ancient footprints preserved in stone, reminders of a world long gone. It made us wonder if each of us might one day leave behind our own mark, our own story carved in stone, for future generations to discover.



## Day 7 – Wednesday 9 July, Burgerbukta and Gashamna

12:00 GPS Position: 77°03.3' N / 015°52.9' E

Wind: VAR2-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +4.0°C

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We woke to the warm tones of Adam's voice inviting us into another full day of adventure, beginning with a morning Zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta. Tucked deep inside Hornsund, this bay is framed by dramatic cliffs and ancient red rock, shaped over millennia by ice and weather. As we cruised between sculpted icebergs and beside cascading waterfalls, we marvelled at the textures and colours surrounding us. The glacier at the end of the fjord stood tall and luminous. In a delightful surprise, we found William, our hotel manager, not in his usual setting, but stationed in a Zodiac handing out hot chocolate and rum. Floating among the icebergs with a steaming cup in hand was exactly the kind of unexpected joy that makes days like this unforgettable. Along the way, we spotted kittiwakes wheeling overhead and even a few ivory gulls perched on the ice.



Back onboard, we tucked into a hearty lunch, with the standout being pastrami Reuben sandwiches, which disappeared quickly. Then it was time to gear up for an afternoon hike at Gåshamna, once an active whaling base in the 1600s.





The long hikers pushed up to an impressive summit, while the medium hikers enjoyed a scenic route tracing the coastline. Along the way, we came across whale bones scattered in the tundra, ghostly remnants of the past lying among moss and stone.

After returning to the ship, we gathered for recap before wrapping up in more layers for a festive evening BBQ on the heli deck. With mulled wine in hand, the crew fired up the grill, and the atmosphere soon turned celebratory with music, dancing and some of the finest views anyone could ask for. We lingered long into the light-filled Arctic night, reluctant to say goodbye to such a perfect day.





## Day 8 – Thursday 10 July, Bamsebu and Varsolbukta

12:00 GPS Position: 77°33.5' N / 015°04.9' E

Wind: NE 6 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +6.8°C

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Today we visited Bamsebu, a small trapper's hut on the southern shore of Ingebrigtsenbukta, in Van Keulenfjorden. The site holds a somber legacy: the whale bones of over 550 belugas, remnants of industrial hunting from the 1930s. These animals were driven into the bay and slaughtered for their blubber. Seeing the bleached skeletons still scattered along the shore was a powerful and painful reminder of how deeply human activity has scarred the Arctic.



After taking in the harrowing history, we broke into hiking groups to explore the surrounding tundra. The day's wildlife did not disappoint. Harbour seals bobbed just offshore, curious and alert, while reindeer grazed across the mossy plains. Overhead, a flurry of shorebirds danced on the wind, their calls echoing over the stillness of the fjord. Life, it seemed, has reclaimed this place.

Following lunch back on board, we gathered at the bridge to watch the expedition team attempt a landing at Varsolbukta, a wide bay in Bellsund known for its flat beaches and rich birdlife.



But the Arctic reminded us who's in charge as strong swell and steady wind made a safe landing impossible today.

Instead, we stayed aboard and enjoyed a compelling lecture by Marcelo, who guided us through the gripping tales of North Pole exploration. From the doomed journey of the airship *Italia* to Amundsen's daring flights, his stories added a dramatic backdrop to our current voyage, an expedition shaped by awe, caution, and respect for this wild frontier.



Today was a day of reflection and wonder. We saw a coastline haunted by history and redeemed by nature, felt the force of Arctic weather firsthand, and left with a deeper appreciation for the fragility and endurance of this extraordinary region.

## Day 9 – Friday 11 July, Poolepynten and Alkhornet

12:00 GPS Position: 78°19.9' N / 012°23.7' E

Wind: SE 5 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +6.1°C

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We woke to calm seas and a soft early light creeping over the horizon. At 6:45am came the gentle wakeup call. We had arrived at Poolepynten and it was time for our walrus fix. From the deck, a few of the big beauties could already be spotted hauled out on the shoreline, their enormous shapes easy to make out even from a distance. The team was quick to get the Zodiacs in the water and head ashore to scout the area.

Hazel was the first to welcome guests on land and we followed in small groups, walking carefully and respectfully toward the resting walruses. Overcast skies lent the place a quiet stillness as we observed the giants of the Arctic up close. There they were, quietly curled up together, tusks resting on each other's faces, with one missing a tooth but looking no less majestic. At around 1,500 kilograms each, these creatures were something to behold. Despite their size, the scene was peaceful and calm. Most of us stood in silence for a moment or two, just taking it all in.





We meandered along the beach afterward, weaving our way through the nesting grounds of the arctic terns. The terns were quick to let us know when we were getting too close, diving and chattering as we passed. Along the way we were lucky to spot a few red phalaropes, flitting along the shoreline in brief, beautiful encounters that added a splash of colour to the grey morning.



Back on board, we were welcomed with a hearty lunch. A good feed of spaghetti bolognese and carbonara hit the spot, especially after the chill of the morning landing. After a short rest, we were off again for our final shore excursion, this time to Alkhornet. The group split into walking parties, each heading off at their own pace toward the towering bird cliffs. It was a stunning location, wild and rugged, with soaring birds and wide views. The outing was the perfect way to end our time on land, allowing space for quiet reflection and appreciation of everything we had experienced.

That evening, we gathered for the captain's cocktail farewell. There was laughter and a few tears as Aitana shared an incredible slideshow capturing the spirit of our journey. Faces lit up with memories as each photo passed by, reminding us how lucky we had been. Soon after, we moved to the dining room for our final dinner. The food was excellent and spirits were high as the hotel department came through the room to well-earned applause.

With our bellies full and hearts even fuller, many of us headed up to the bar for one last drink. There was a warmth in the air, not from the weather but from the shared stories and the friendships formed over the course of the trip. As we raised a final toast, we were all deeply content, knowing these were memories we'd carry for a long time.

## Day 10 – Saturday 12 July, Disembarkation, Longyearbyen

08:00 GPS Position: 78°22.3' N / 015°64.7' E

Wind: SSW 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +9°C

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The time had arrived to say our goodbyes and leave the ship that had been our home throughout this unforgettable voyage around Svalbard. After days of adventure, wildlife encounters and stunning Arctic landscapes, we returned to where it all started in Longyearbyen.

Following one last breakfast together, we disembarked the lovely *Ortelius* at 8:30 in the morning. There was no shortage of emotion as we hugged the *Ortelius* family and said our farewells. The bonds we had formed during the journey made it especially hard to part ways with the team who had guided, supported and shared every step of the experience.

Our luggage had already been offloaded and was waiting on the dock. With bags in hand and memories to treasure, we stepped off the pier. Some of us were heading off on new adventures, while others began the trip home, each carrying a piece of the Arctic with us – our experience and memories.



**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1273 nautical miles**

**Most northern point sailed: 81°54.273 N, 017°13.273 E**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Remmert Koster, Expedition Leader Adam Burke, Hotel Manager William Barnes and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it has been a pleasure and a privilege travelling with you.

## **Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team**

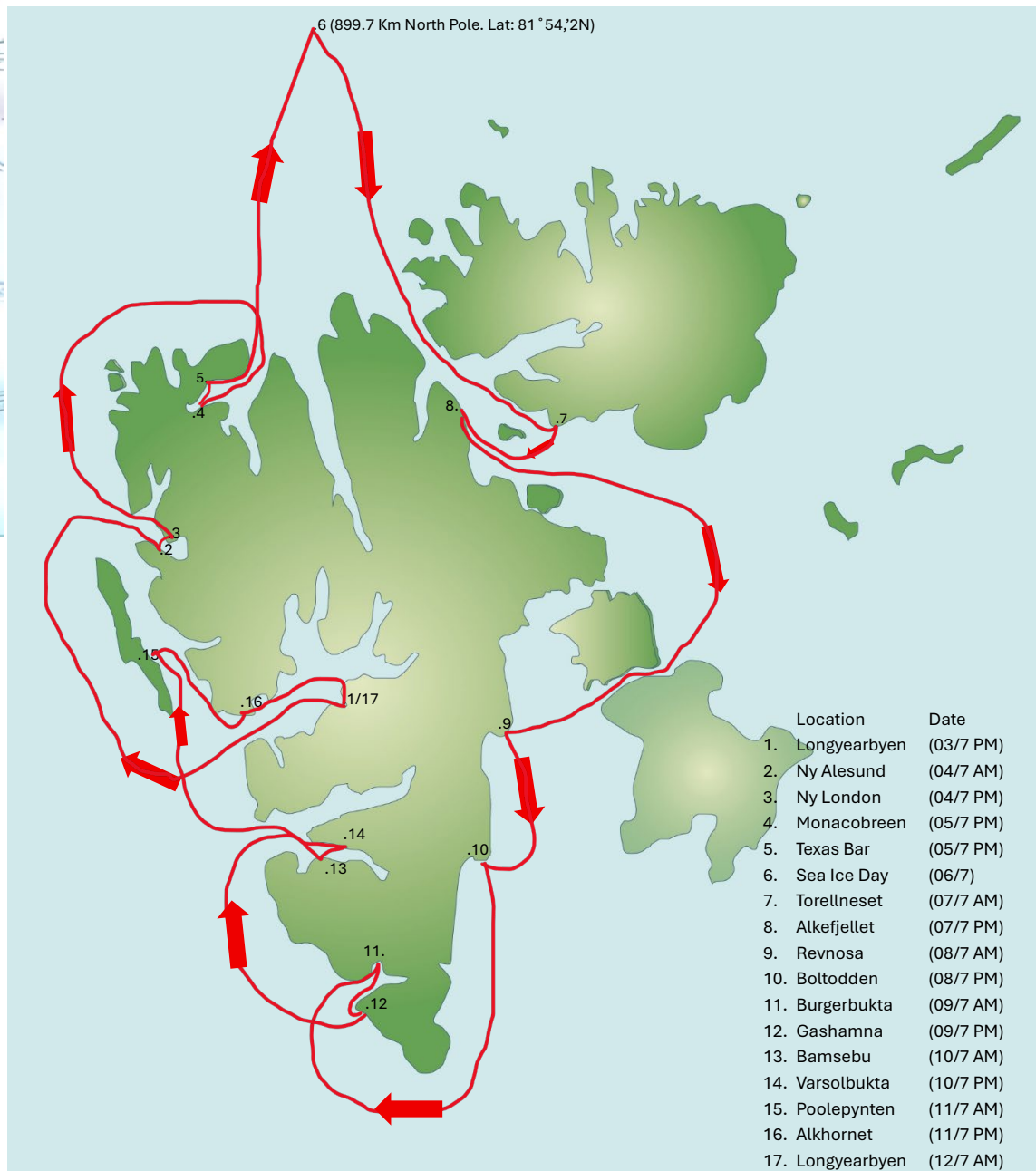


Back row: Hazel, Adam, Aitana, Matt, Kana, Mark, Ken

Front row: Rao, Gabi, Koen, Marcelo



## MV "Ortelius" (OCEANWIDE) From 03 to 12-July 2025.



Passengers:	108 in 50 cabins.
Staff & Crew:	Crew 44   Guides 8   Doctor 1   3 Pilots
Length	90.95 Meters
Breadth	17.20 Meters
Draft	5. 6 Meters
Ice Class	UL1 (Equivalent to 1A) PC 6*
Displacement	4090 Tonnes
Propulsion	6 ZL 40/48 SULZER
Speed	10.5 knots average cruising speed

Flight Deck Helicopter (2) 12 Zodiac Boat Mk 5. 60 HP

PC6: Suitable for navigation in medium first-year ice, which may include old ice inclusions. Ice Thickness: 70 to 120 cm (2.3 to 3.9 ft) by WMO. Call Sign: PCGQ





## Birds and Mammals of Svalbard - OTL 06

English Name	Latin	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		X	X			X			X
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>			X			X			
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>			X				X		
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		X				X			
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>		X	X						
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		X							X
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	X	X				X	X	X	X
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								X	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		X							X
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		X							X
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>							X		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>		X							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>					X				
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>			X	X			X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>					X				
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	X			X			X		X
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X		X	X		X	X

## MAMMALS

English	Latin	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>					X				X
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			X						
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>				X			X		
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		X						X	X
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	X						X		
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	X								
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>				X					
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	X								
Beluga	<i>Devinapterus leucas</i>						X			
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>			X	X					
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		X			X				X
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		X	X			X		X	X



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# Adam Burke – Expedition Leader

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Adam has always had a love of the outdoors and adventure, from an early age he dreamt of visiting exotic places and immersing himself in other cultures.

This love of the outdoors led him to work teaching adventurous activities and for over fifteen years this pursuit has given him the opportunity to live and work all over the globe. He has taught sailing in Australia, paddle sports on Europe's rivers and led expeditions in Africa.

After spending five years teaching white water safety & rescue and boat handling techniques to the fire brigade, he moved on to providing marine science support in Antarctica. He has spent over five years living between the Antarctic continent and the island of South Georgia, including overwintering twice.

Whilst providing science support he spent his time in Antarctica managing boating operations and helming RIBs for diving operations. This covered understanding environmental changes and its effects, wildlife monitoring and counting as well as water sampling for a long-term data collection.

Adam enjoys travelling with his partner who shares the same values and love of the outdoors. This has taken them from deserts to rain forests and ultramarathons in the mountains.

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## Hazel Pittwood –Asst. Exp. Leader

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Hazel grew up in the county of Dorset on the South coast of the UK. With the Jurassic Coast on her doorstep, it was inevitable that she would develop a love for being beside, on or in the sea!

Hazel has worked and volunteered in a variety of wildlife focused roles, from surveying for rare reptiles on heathland nature reserves to caring for injured bats and other small mammals and birds for local wildlife rescue groups.

Whilst she is broadly enamoured with the natural world, Hazel is first and foremost a marine mammal and seabird specialist. In 2014 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 for six months on a passenger ship travelling between the UK and Spain across the Bay of Biscay for six months as a marine mammal guide and surveyor.

Since then, Hazel has been working as a guide and lecturer on cruise, expedition and small ships in various locations worldwide. Guiding highlights have included Baja California with friendly Gray whales, huge gatherings of Humpback whales in Antarctica, four months with the semi-resident Bottlenose dolphin population of Cardigan Bay in Wales and working as a snorkelling guide with Orca (killer whales) in North Norway.

She is a World Cetacean Alliance certified responsible whale watching guide, championing the highest standards of wildlife experiences.

We hope to see an incredible diversity of marine mammal and seabird species on your trip, and Hazel looks forward enhancing your encounters with these incredible animals with her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm!



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# Mark Whiffin - Expedition Guide

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Mark holds a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology and is an ornithologist and birder with extensive field experience. His passion for birds and travelling started from a very young age in East Sussex, England and expanded from there.

After finishing studying at university, he participated in, and led numerous expeditions and scientific research projects to remote areas of the world in search of birds with a particular emphasis on threatened and endemic species.

Mark first visited Antarctica in 2018 employed by the British Antarctic Survey, and subsequently spent five years living and working on Bird Island, South Georgia as a Zoological Field Assistant working with the penguins and petrels. He developed a deep love for the Southern Ocean, its scenery and the birds that call it home, "seeing the first Cape Petrels on any trip always gives a feeling of arriving home".

In his free time Mark enjoys trekking, running or cycling. He is also a keen photographer and videographer who enjoys documenting and sharing his passion for birds, travel and wild places, his images have been used various NGOs, employers, newspapers and online. He looks forward to sharing your expedition with you.

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# Marcelo Tarapow – Expedition Guide

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Marcelo Tarapow has a Master's degree in Social Sciences, specialized in History from the National University of Quilmes, retired Rear Admiral of the Argentine Navy, Honorary Professor at the Nikola Vaptsarov Academy (Bulgaria) and Graduate in Naval Systems.

He participated in twelve expeditions to Antarctica between 1988 and 2017, occupying different roles until being the leader on his last two occasions, spending around 900 days in Antarctic activity.

He has also carried out studies in Environmental Preservation, Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Tourism.

He has been a professor in pre-Antarctic courses taught in Argentina, Colombia and Bulgaria, especially on navigation, meteorology, the Antarctic Treaty and the Madrid Protocol.

He is the President of the Academy of Antarctica, a lecturer and researcher especially on topics related to the White Continent, having presented on historical Antarctic expeditions in Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Colombia, France and Romania.

He is a member of the Council at Polar Educators International for the 2024-2025 biennium.

His main hobbies are swimming, cycling, tango, reading, an enthusiastic collector of ancient objects linked to Antarctic history and an amateur photographer.

Always ready to learn from other cultures, listen to stories, passionately share their experiences and care for the environment.



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# Gabi Kolodko – Expedition Guide

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Having been exposed to the pristine wilderness of Alaska, Canada, and Lapland before turning ten, Gabi developed a deep-rooted passion for cold climates and the great outdoors. Each summer, she devoted herself to sailing, and in 2012, her adventures included crossing the Baltic Sea from Poland to Scandinavia and back aboard the Zawisza Czarny, a historic 42-meter vessel originally built in 1952.

With a Master's in Fine Arts and a fascination for art, culture, and history, Gabi's curiosity led her to explore the unique human-animal relationships in polar regions, combining her interest in zooanthropology with the stories of Antarctica's early exploration and modern conservation. Her first journey to Antarctica in 2019 only deepened her connection to the continent's striking landscapes and rich history.

Gabi's enthusiasm for the cold extends beyond her travels; she actively practices the Wim Hof method and regularly takes on ice baths, walrusing, and cryotherapy throughout the year. A memorable encounter with a herd of Musk Oxen in 1993 at Herschel Island off the Canadian Arctic coast sparked her love for Arctic wildlife, with the Gentoo Penguin now topping her list of favorites in Antarctica.

She loves being part of life-changing voyages, rediscovering the polar regions with each new group of guests. Driven by a passion for adventure and a genuine desire to share the wonders of the poles, Gabi aims to inspire awe and respect for these breathtaking and fragile landscapes, offering others a transformative glimpse into the natural world.

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# Matt Cheok – Expedition Guide

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Matt is an adventure photographer and videographer from Sydney, Australia.

His work has taken him to some of the planet's most remote and captivating destinations – from the polar regions of Antarctica, Svalbard and Greenland to the majestic African savannah, landlocked steppe countries of Central Asia, and rugged mountains of South America.

In Antarctica, Matt's favourite subjects to capture are the playful gentoo penguins and the dramatic polar landscapes in the late afternoon light.

As a photography educator, Matt enjoys sharing his expertise with fellow travellers and inspiring them to connect with the natural world.

Matt's career path has been full of surprises. He previously worked as a commercial and insurance lawyer in Sydney, but he's now much happier pursuing his passion for photography and adventure.

When he's not guiding, Matt spends much of his time camping, thru-hiking, drinking lots of Bialetti coffee, and exploring the outdoors, having recently returned from the Fann Mountains in Tajikistan.

Onboard, you'll find Matt out on deck, cameras in hand. Don't hesitate to approach him with any photography questions or just for a friendly chat!



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# Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide

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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.

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# Xinpeng Rao - Expedition Guide

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Rao was born in Harbin China, the city full of snow and ice. This is still the reason he gives to others that he is really afraid of hot, he is a true northern man.

His hometown made him full of love in ice and ocean. After he retired from CAPF army and finished college in 2011, he works as an international tour leader in Travel agency for 6 years, during that time, he first went to Europe for western history, then Africa for wildlife.

After his first time in Antarctica, he actually found that most of the information written in Chinese such as Baidu in some common sense about Polar region were totally wrong. Then he decided to make some change.

Now 5 years since that first tour leader trip, during this time he tried to learn anything he could. He has some friends also working in polar region as a staff or a translator. They together making Science popularization in China.

Rao always encourage people to learn from the place they have been. Now the world changing so fast, every modern city looks like same. Original culture and wild environment were taken place by “modern”. That is also the reason why now the wildlife tour is more and more popular in tourism industry.

## 中文

饶出生在哈尔滨这座充满冰天雪地的城市，这也是他非常怕热的理由——因为他是北方人。

家乡让他从小就爱上了冰雪和海洋。2011 年，他从武警部队退役，并在大学毕业后，在旅行社担任了 6 年的国际领队，在旅行的过程中，他先是去欧洲学习西方历史，然后去了非洲学习野生动物。

在他第一次去南极后，他发现实际上大多数国内书写的知识，比如百度百科，在关于极地的许多常识信息都是完全错误的。从此他决定做些改变。

现在距离他第一次领队旅行已经 5 年了，在这段时间里，他试图在船上学习任何他能学到的东西。他有一些朋友也在极地地区作为探险队或翻译。他们一同试图在国内进行科普教育。

他总是鼓励人们在旅途中学习。现在的世界变化之快，每个现代城市看起来都是一样的。民俗文化和野生环境被“现代社会”所取代。这也是为什么现在野生环境为目的地的旅游在旅游业中越来越受欢迎的原因。



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# Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide

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Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he chose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for.

Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

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# Yu Kan (Kana) Cheng - Translator

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Kana, with a Chinese name, Yu Kan, pronounced as "You Can," means "creating value in the universe" in Chinese. This belief shapes her perspective that life is about finding meaning, instilling in her a positive attitude that you can achieve anything in life. Yu Kan was born and raised in Hong Kong, a city famous for its towering skyscrapers. But actually, Hong Kong also has stunning coastal and mountain landscapes.

After earning her degree in accounting and working in an office, Yu Kan realized her passion for nature and adventure surpassed her interest in an office job. Seeing people's joy and growth has brought her more fulfillment than working with numbers. Therefore, she transitioned to the outdoor education industry, where she spent 10 years providing experiential learning in an outdoor setting for children aged 8-18. Witnessing the growth and development of these children has been her most significant achievement.

Fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, Yu Kan has had the opportunity to work and live in various countries, including China, Malaysia, Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. Her travels across different continents have made her comfortable and deeply interested in exploring diverse cultures.

In 2024, Yu Kan joined Oceanwide Expeditions. She is excited to offer a unique and memorable experience to all passengers.

## 中文

Kana, 中文名是宇芹 (Yu Kan), 意为“在宇宙中创造价值”。这一信念塑造了她的人生观, 认为生命的意义在于找到价值, 并给予她积极的人生态度: 你可以在生活中完成一切。宇芹在香港出生和长大, 这座城市以其高耸的摩天大楼而闻名。但实际上, 香港也有迷人的海岸和山脉景观。

在获得会计学学位并在办公室工作后, 宇芹意识到她对自然和冒险的热情超过了对办公室工作的兴趣。看到人们的快乐和成长带给她比处理数字更多的满足感。因此, 她转入户外教育行业, 花了10年时间为8至18岁的孩子提供户外体验式学习。见证这些孩子的成长和发展是她工作中最显著的成就。

宇芹精通粤语、普通话和英语, 这使她有机会在不同国家工作和生活, 包括中国、马来西亚、澳大利亚、英国和新西兰。她在不同大陆的旅行使她对探索多样文化感到舒适和深感兴趣。

2024年, 宇芹加入了Oceanwide Expeditions。她非常期待为所有乘客提供一次独特而难忘的体验。



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## Kenneth Lo – Ships Doctor

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Dr Kenneth Lo is an Emergency Medicine Specialist currently based in Christchurch, New Zealand.

He will be joining you on this trip to the Arctic with Oceanwide Expeditions, and he feels very privileged to be able to share this extraordinary experience with you.

Ken was born in Hong Kong and grew up in England. After completing his medical training in London, a love for travel and the outdoors led him on expeditions to Africa, Costa Rica and India, eventually ending up in Australia

and New Zealand.

Aside from his interest in expedition medicine, he has a passion for Humanitarian medicine and served missions with Doctors Without Borders in South Sudan and Iraq.

It was in Iraq where he met his French wife, Melanie with whom he currently lives with their two young sons in New Zealand. He speaks English, Cantonese and terrible French.

When not working, he loves cooking, woodworking and spending time with his family.



## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

Day 1: Embarkation – Longyearbyen

### WELCOME ABOARD!

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check that you have received all your luggage. **If you are missing any luggage or find bags in your cabin which are not yours, please visit reception on Deck 4.** Please be patient as hotel staff may be busy with embarking guests – thank you 😊

Tea/coffee is available in the **Bar located on Deck 6.**

### PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1700 +/- Ship safety briefing in the **Bar on DECK 6.** Attendance is **MANDATORY.**

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded. You must go back to your cabin to get your life jacket and dress warmly. All guests must then go to the **MUSTER STATION** which is the **Bar on Deck 6.** Please ensure you have your own room key with you as you will need this to check in, and it will also indicate which lifeboat you are assigned to.

1800 +/- Please join the Expedition Team and Hotel Manager in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a welcome briefing to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.

1900 - 2000 Dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

2030 +/- We will have a mandatory AECO/Zodiac and bear safety Briefing in the **Bar on Deck 6**

2130 +/- You will be called deck by deck to go to the **Lecture Room on Deck 3** to collect your Muck Boots: please bring your thick socks.

*Please note that we will be sailing into open seas. If you are concerned about sea sickness, the doctor will be available if you require medication, which should be taken as soon as possible after embarkation. Please ensure that all your belongings are stored away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed.*





## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

**PLEASE ENSURE ANY DEVICES WITH WIFI ARE SWITCHED TO  
AIRPLANE MODE OR TURNED OFF UNTIL DINNER TIME**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 2: Ny-Alesund and Ny-London

- 0715 Wake-up call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0900 +/- We hope to start disembarkation for **going ashore at Ny-Alesund.**  
**Payment in the shop is by card only.**  
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1230-1330 Lunch in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
- 1400 +/- We hope to start disembarkation for **going ashore at Ny-London.**  
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap,  
including plans for tomorrow
- 1900 Plated dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**  
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated

*If conditions are good, we encourage you to make the most of the evening light by  
being on the outside decks or on the bridge; enjoy the landscape and look out for  
wildlife!*



## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 3 – Monacobreen & Texas Bar

0715          Wakeup-call: Good Morning!

0730-0830    Breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

0845 +/-      Disembarkation for a Zodiac Cruise of **Monacobreen**, one of the most iconic glacier fronts in Svalbard. This is named after Prince Albert I of Monaco, for his 1898-1907 oceanographic expedition to map the area. If we are lucky, we may spot wildlife such as bearded seal, ivory gull and beluga.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**

1230-1330    Lunch is served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

1400          We hope to start disembarkation for going ashore at **Texas Bar**. This site is named after a trapper's hut which you will see ashore and is a fantastic place for hiking, along with a variety of flora and fauna.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**

**POLAR PLUNGE!!!**

We will provide you with towels, please don't take towels from the cabins.

1815          Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar on Deck 6 for our daily recap.

1900          Dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**





# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 4 – Into the pack ice

*We will be spending the day in this wonderful and unique landscape,  
exploring the Arctic pack ice and looking for wildlife.*

*We hope to find birds, seals, whales and, of course, polar bear.*

*We encourage you to spend as much time as possible on the outside decks  
and on the bridge to help us search: the more eyes looking for animals, the  
better chance we have to spot them!*

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE QUIET ON THE OUTSIDE DECKS:**  
**NOISES/SOUNDS CAN SCARE AWAY WILDLIFE!**

- 0745      Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0800-0900      Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0915      Please join **Koen** in the **Bar on Deck 6** for his lecture about **Polar Bears.**
- 1100 +/-      **Aitana** will give a lecture about **Sea Ice** please join her in the **Bar on Deck 6.**
- 1230-1330      Lunch will be served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
- 1530 +/-      **Mark** will give a presentation about **Birds of Svalbard.**  
Please join him in the **Bar on Deck 6**
- 1815      Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap.
- 1900      Dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

*If conditions are good, we encourage you to make the most  
of the evening light by being on the outside decks or on the bridge.  
Enjoy the landscape and look out for wildlife!*



## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 5 – Torellneset & Alkefjellet

- 0715            Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830    Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845+/-       Disembarkation for **going ashore at Torrelneset**. We will provide options for long, medium and short hikes. This site also has a known haul out for Atlantic Walrus; we hope to see them here.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**
- 1230-1330    Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1345           Please join **Koen** in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the conclusion of his **Polar Bear lecture** (*after it ended prematurely yesterday, due to our fantastic sighting of the polar bears eating the dead whale carcass!*)
- 1500           Disembarkation for a **zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet**. These spectacular, dramatic cliffs are home to 60,000 breeding pairs of Brunnich's guillemot. Kittiwake, Glaucous gulls and other seabirds also breed here. If we are lucky, we might see Arctic fox!  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs**
- 1815           Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the daily recap, including plans for tomorrow.
- 1900           Dinner is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**  
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated.



## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 6 – Revnosa & Boltodden

- 0715          Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830    Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845+/-      Disembarkation for **going ashore at Revnosa**. We will provide options for long, medium and short hikes.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**
- 1230-1330    Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1500+/-      Disembarkation for **going ashore at Boltodden**. We will provide options for long, medium and short hikes.  
This area has some excellent geology and we will be looking for dinosaur footprints.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**
- 1815          Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the daily recap, including plans for tomorrow.
- 1900          Dinner is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**  
Please attend promptly: service only starts once everyone is seated.





## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 7 – Burgerbukta & Gåshamna

- 0745      Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0800-0900    Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0900+/-      Disembarkation for **zodiac cruise at Burgerbukta.**  
*Named in honour of the Austrian photographer and painter, Wilhelm Burger (1844-1920) who took part in an Arctic expedition in 1872.*  
We hope to offer a zodiac cruise at this beautiful area with its dramatic scenery and majestic waterfalls. We will also be looking for wildlife.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**
- 1230-1330    Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1400+/-      Disembarkation for **going ashore at Gåshamna ('Goose bay')**  
This is a picturesque, mountainous bay situated in Hornsund.  
We hope to provide options for long, medium and short hikes.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**
- 1815          Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the daily recap, including plans for tomorrow.
- 1900          Dinner will be served outside – dress warmly!



## DAILY PROGRAM

### Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 8 – Bamsebu & Vårsolbukta

- 0715          Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830    Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845 +/-      Disembarkation for **going ashore at Bamsebu (Ahlstrandhaløya).**  
This area of historic interest was once a beluga whale hunting site and nowadays is home to a wide variety of plant life and birds. Bamsebu is the name of the well-preserved hunter's cabin which is still used today.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**
- 1230-1330    Lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 1400 +/-      Disembarkation for going ashore at **Vårsolbukta**  
Little auk nest within the rock crevices here and the lush moss tundra attracts Svalbard reindeer. We hope to see these species and more.  
**Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.**
- 1815          Please join the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for our daily recap.
- 1900          Dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

*This is your last chance to buy souvenirs on board, so if you would like anything from the shop, situated at reception, please pay them a visit*



## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 9: Poolepynten and Alkhornet.

06:45 Wake-up call: Good morning!

07:00-08:00 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

08:00+/- Disembarkation to **go ashore at Poolepynten**. This is a known haul out site for Atlantic Walrus.

**Any time after returning from your morning excursion,  
please pass by Reception to settle your account.  
This needs to be done before 17:00. Thank you!**

12:30-13:30 Lunch is served in the **Restaurant, Deck 4.**

14:30 Disembarkation for **going ashore at Alkhornet**.  
For our final landing of this trip we hope to go ashore at this beautiful site which is named after the distinctive horn shaped mountain that towers over the lush vegetation below. Wildlife that could be seen here includes Svalbard reindeer and Arctic fox.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the **Bar on Deck 6** for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.

19:00 Farewell dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

20:30 After dinner please return your muck boots to the **lecture room located on Deck 3**. Please leave your life jackets in the cabin.





# DAILY PROGRAM

## Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Day 8 - Longyearbyen

**Ensure all luggage is placed outside your cabin by **07:15 latest** as we need to move it to the pier while you have breakfast. Keep the public areas clear when luggage is being moved.**

07:00          Wakeup call.

07:30-08:30 Breakfast is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**. Please make sure that your luggage is outside your cabin before going to Breakfast.

09:00          Disembarkation for all guests.  
**PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR LUGGAGE BEFORE YOU LEAVE**

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