



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Longyearbyen – Longyearbyen

21st July 2025 – 30th 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 poetess and writer. 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, POLAR CODE), 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER, that allows her sailing for 44 continuous days. *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-Jan Koster

[The Netherlands]

and his international crew of 53

Chief Officer:	Sjoerd Van Hoek	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	Anar Barabiev	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Ian Vincent	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Alexsander Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Second Engineer:	Jhunwel Yuzon	[Philippines]
Third Engineer:	Yurii Vitkovskiy	[Ukraine]
Four Engineer:	Alexander Petrache	[Romania]
ETO:	Yehor Borodkin	[Ukraine]
FITTER:	Ricson Labor	[Philippines]
FITTER:	Marcy Vicente	[Philippines]
Motorman:	Arvie Edemi	[Philippines]
Motorman	Rogie Collado Parra	[Philippines]
Motorman:	Efren Carido Bueno	[Philippines]
Ordinary Seaman	Neil Robles	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	William Barnes	[The Netherlands]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Bogdan 'Bobby' Manevski	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Felix Lobo	[India]
Sous Chef:	Sergei Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Cook	Rene Quevedo	[Philippines]
Cook	Jefferson Macarubbo	[Philippines]
Baker	Ferdie Santos	[Philippines]
Galley Steward	Senen Tancio	[Philippines]
Restaurant Supervisor	Mhel Alolor	[Philippines]
Dining Steward	Agus Edy Putra	[Indonesia]
Dining Steward	Lynn Trangia Ronda	[Philippines]
Dining Steward	Aldrin Toledo	[Philippines]
Housekeeping Supervisor	Jerome Dela Cruz	[Philippines]
Housekeeping Steward	Anecita Peligrino Bernaldez	[Philippines]
Housekeeping Steward	Ambrocio Lappay	[Philippines]
Housekeeping Steward	Menchie Lagartija	[Philippines]
Laundry Steward	Judy Malang	[Philippines]
Laundry Steward	Kimberly Mabagos	[Philippines]
Bosun	Lauren Malatag	[Philippines]

Bosun	Philip Malang	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Edgar Pagsiban	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Priscifel Bazarte	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Rojie Taba	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Jesfony Pacaldo	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Zosimo Lugao Celocia	[Philippines]
Able Seaman	Christopher John Sarial	[Philippines]
Bartender	Jake Montevirgen	[Philippines]
Expedition Leader	Adam Burke	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader	Hazel Pittwood	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Mark Whiffen	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Georgina White	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Aitana Forcén Vazquez	[Spain]
Expedition Guide	Rao Xingpeng	[China]
Translator/E.Guide	Yu Kan Cheng	[Hong Kong]
Expedition Guide	Emily Clarke	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Jody Gaylord	[USA]
Ship's Doctor	Katrin Daenen	[The Netherlands]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Monday 21st July, 2025. Longyearbyen, Svalbard. Embarkation Day

2100 GPS Position: 78° 09' N / 012° 10' E

Wind: SE 2 km/h • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +7.2°C



Today will be remembered in a different way. We have traveled from different parts of the world, speaking different languages, but bringing with us the hope of enjoying a few unforgettable days aboard the m/v *Ortelius*.

At 4pm, we were all ready to board the ship on the main pier and start our amazing journey.



Just after 6:00 PM, the ship set sailing leaving Longyearbyen behind us and almost immediately we were called to receive safety instructions that would be very useful for the following days. As *m/v Ortelius* slowly pulled away from the harbor, northern fulmars joined us, effortlessly gliding alongside the ship. The moment of departure had truly arrived, and a shared sense of excitement buzzed in the crisp Arctic air. The sense of departure was real now, and excitement filled the air.

After the mandatory class and practice in front of the lifeboats, we left the life jackets in our cabins and went to the bar where we received the official welcome from Captain Remmert and our Expedition Leader, Adam. Champagne or orange juice set the stage to enjoy the little delicacies that the chefs prepared on board.

Then we started getting to know each other, creating new friendships with people we had never seen before and with whom we would share great Arctic experiences.

The dinner pleasantly surprised us, organized by our Hotel Manager, William. The restaurant looked magnificent and the waiters attended to us with a unique friendliness and charisma.

A voice announced that you will be called deck by deck to go to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect your muck boots, ready to start early in the morning.

Just as we were starting to settle into the rhythm of ship life, excitement struck again. Two male sperm whales—and not long after, a minke whale—were spotted off the bow. We all rushed outside, hearts pounding, and watched in awe as these massive creatures surfaced gracefully in the distance. It was an unforgettable, magical welcome to the adventures ahead.

We went to rest, dreaming of where we would wake up tomorrow, what landscapes would accumulate in our retinas, and how we would discover the Arctic fauna.

Day 2 – Tuesday 22nd July, Fjortende Julibukta, Ny Ålesund

21:00 GPS Position: 79°18.'N / 010°41'E

Wind: SE 14 Km/h • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +4.9°C

After our first breakfast on board, we attended the mandatory AECO and zodiac safety briefings, then headed out for our inaugural Zodiac trip. Boarding and disembarking takes some getting used to, but we soon got the hang of it.



We cruised around the beautiful bird cliffs of Fjortende Julibukta, where we saw lots of kittiwakes, common guillemots, and a few black guillemots. The birds everyone was most excited to see, however, were the puffins. Scattered amongst all the other species, some basking in sunlight like lords overlooking their kingdom, these colorful little birds were the show stopping favorites. They flew above our heads and in front of our boats, flitting quickly by to the

utter delight of all.



As we made our way to the glacier, several curious harbor seals popped their heads up around our zodiacs. Their deep black eyes looked from boat to boat as their dark gray heads glistened in the sunlight. Realizing that we neither brought food, were food, nor wanted to use them as food, they went peacefully on their way, and we continued toward the glacier front.



Approaching the glacier, we saw streaks of movement on the left-hand beach: reindeer! At least four of the animals were running through the sand, from what we couldn't tell. Eventually they calmed and began grazing on the Lilliputian vegetation, and all was quiet again.

The glacier itself was something to behold, its size difficult to judge without something to provide perspective. Growlers and other small pieces of ice dotted the bay, and some of the

guides grabbed pieces to be passed around, allowing us to see the imbedded air bubbles. Some intrepid guests even tasted the ice; it was, of course, salty due to the exterior being coated in ocean water.

Back aboard the ship, we had a scrumptious buffet lunch. Who knew that a buffet could taste this delicious?



Once the briefings were complete, we made our way down the gangway and wandered among colorful wooden buildings, scientific stations, and wide-open surroundings. The crisp air and profound remoteness were unmistakable.



The afternoon found us pier side at Ny-Ålesund, the only outing of the trip where we are not required to wear our waterproof layers and muck boots to get off the ship. A settlement of international scientific research stations and former coal mining town, Ny-Ålesund has a little for everyone: science, history, a museum, a shop, even a post office. Some guests were lucky enough to see their first Arctic fox of the trip sauntering over a meadow just outside the settlement, while others watched a harbor seal swimming along the shore near the historic airship mast. Ringed plovers skittered across the ground, noticeable only because of their movement, so good is their camouflage, while Arctic terns soared above us.



After a long wander around, we all gathered back aboard the ship for a recap of the day from Adam and to hear what is planned for tomorrow. Emily then taught us more about Arctic terns, their biology, and their incredible migrations – to Antarctica and back! Jodi then told us the story of Saloman August Andrée and his ill-fated attempt to reach the North Pole in a hydrogen balloon in 1897.

We concluded the planned itinerary for the day with our first plated dinner. Delicious.

Day 3 – Wednesday 23rd, July, Monacobreen, Texas Bar

21:00 GPS Position: 79°36'N / 014°39'E

Wind: NW 7 Km/h • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +3.9°C

We awoke at 7:15 AM to the soft, dulcet tones of Adam's wake-up call and were immediately greeted by a spectacular view of the Monacobreen Glacier. The bay was mirror-still, resembling a tranquil lake scattered with brash ice and sculptural icebergs in a variety of shapes and sizes.

After breakfast, we boarded the Zodiacs and headed towards the glacier. The peaks of the surrounding mountains were shrouded in cloud, creating a dramatic backdrop. The cruise began on a high with our first pinniped sightings: two bearded seals. One lay resting on an ice floe, allowing us a closer look at its impressive moustache. The second seal was in the water, swimming purposefully as it searched for the perfect spot to haul out.



As we wove our way through the ice, the symphony of sounds was unforgettable, the constant crackling and popping as air escaped from the ice. Birdlife was abundant, we observed kittiwakes, guillemots, Arctic skuas, glaucous gulls, northern fulmars, Arctic

terns, and we even spotted the elusive ivory gull.



Both Monacobreen and Seligerbreen—glaciers that were once connected as recently as 2015 were highly active throughout the morning. Several impressive calving events occurred, the most dramatic just as we were returning to *Ortelius*. With a thunderous roar, a massive column of glacial ice broke away and plunged into the water, a breathtaking reminder of nature's raw power.



During lunch, we cruised slowly through the ice-choked waters of Liefdefjorden, leaving Monacobreen behind as we repositioned for our afternoon landing at the historic site of Texas Bar. The weather was exceptional, the calm waters and clear skies provided

panoramic views of the surrounding Arctic wilderness.



A short Zodiac ride brought us ashore, where we were free to roam within a safe perimeter established by our vigilant expedition guides scouting for polar bears. It was a pleasure to stretch our legs and explore the tundra flora, with the moss campion looking particularly beautiful. Rao was stationed at the old trapper's hut, originally built in 1927 by Norwegian trappers Hilmar Nøis and Martin Petterson Nøis, who constructed several such cabins across the region. Many of us took the opportunity to step inside and take some photos.



Back aboard *Ortelius*, we gathered for the evening recap, where we learned about the exciting plans for the following day's journey north into the ice. Rao gave an insightful talk on Monacobreen's glacial dynamics, followed by Hazel's informative introduction to whale watching, highlighting key features to help identify different species.

All in all, another unforgettable day aboard *Ortelius*, filled with Arctic wonder, wildlife encounters, and stunning scenery.

Day 4 – Thursday 24th, July, Into the Pack Ice

21:00 GPS Position: 81°08,'8N / 020°48,'4'E

Wind: NW 6 Km/h • Sea: Clam • Weather: Fog • Air Temperature: +0°C

Today was dedicated to exploring the mysterious and shifting world of the pack ice, in search of polar bears. We spent the day navigating north through the ice floes, eyes on binoculars and scopes, scanning every ridge and shadow for signs of movement.



The atmosphere matched the Arctic's ever-changing mood, a mix of fog and sunshine, with visibility constantly shifting. Between ice watches, the team offered a series of engaging lectures: Aitana shared insights into sea ice dynamics and its critical role in the polar ecosystem, Mark dove into the birdlife of Svalbard, and Hazel explored the lives of polar bears.



Just as we were wrapping up recap, and five minutes before dinner, Mark spotted movement in the distance. A bear! The bridge quickly confirmed the sighting, and we changed course to approach. As we edged closer through the ice, we found ourselves in the presence of a curious polar bear. We held a respectful distance, but the bear chose to come closer, curious, calm, and commanding. It walked right up to the ship, giving everyone an unforgettable, close-up encounter.

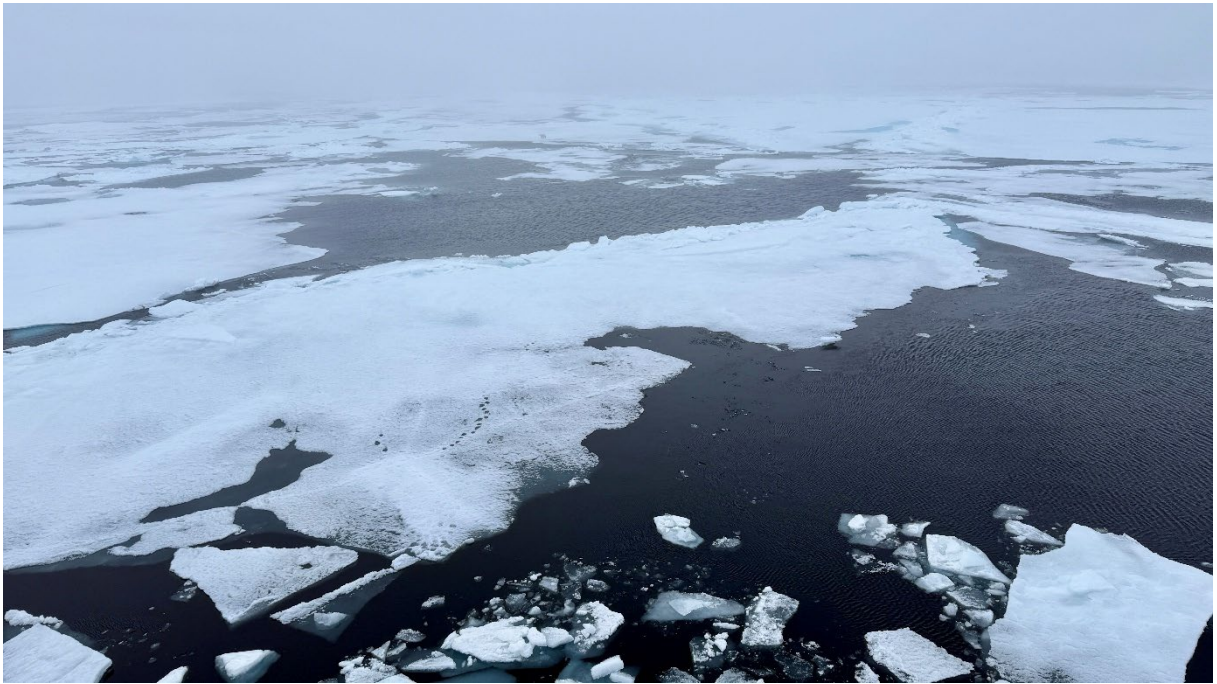


Dinner was postponed by an hour, but no one complained, a polar bear sighting like this is worth every minute.



Later that evening, while beginning our journey south back toward the mainland, we encountered two more polar bears roaming the ice. It was a day of patience, awe, and rare privilege—three bears, three lectures, and a whole world of ice.

Truly a day to remember.



Day 5 – Friday 25th, July. Seven Islands

21:00 GPS Position: 80°27'N / 018°05'E

Wind: NW 6 km/h • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +4.6°C

An overnight sail south from the pack ice brought the expedition team to the remote and rugged landscape of the Seven Islands, the northernmost part of the Svalbard archipelago. The morning greeted them with a curtain of fog, making a landing on Phippsøya—originally planned for the start of the day—impossible. Instead, the schedule shifted, and Zodiac cruises along the shores of neighboring Parryøya, initially slated for the afternoon, began earlier than expected.



Though the temperatures remained cold and the seas bumpy the spirit of exploration was undeterred. These islands carry a legacy of Arctic discovery, with four of them named in honor of prominent explorers: Constantine Phipps, William Parry, Horatio Nelson, and Friderich Martens. Their names echo across the dramatic cliffs, stark beaches, and windswept tundra of this dramatic and beautiful region.

During the morning Zodiac excursion, a Walrus haul-out offered a memorable wildlife encounter. Several curious Walruses slipped into the water and approached the Zodiacs, offering guests a close-up view of these Arctic giants in their natural element. Birdlife added to the experience, with sightings of black guillemots bobbing along the water and a lone pomarine skua circling overhead.



In the afternoon, conditions improved enough to allow a hike on Parryøya. Groups split into long, medium, and short hikes, each offering a unique perspective of the island's scenery. Along the way, hikers spotted driftwood from Siberia scattered along the shores, fox tracks imprinted in the sandy beach and tufts of resilient Arctic grass that clung to life in the rocky soil. Birders enjoyed the sight of an Arctic skuas gliding across the low sky.



The highly anticipated postponed polar plunge was once again aborted with a reminder of the region's wild unpredictability: a polar bear was spotted nearby, prompting a swift and professional evacuation back to the ship. Safety remained the top priority, but the sighting was a thrilling reminder that in this remote corner of the world, humans are only visitors in a domain ruled by nature.



Despite shifting plans and challenging weather, the day offered a rich tapestry of Arctic wildlife, dramatic landscapes, and unforgettable experiences in the high north.

Day 6 – Saturday 26th, July. Alkefiellet, Palanderbukta

21:00 GPS Position: 79°13'N / 022°35'E

Wind: NW 4 Km/h • Sea: Ripples • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +3,1°C

This morning began very early, with a 6 AM Zodiac cruise to the bird cliffs of Alkefiellet. On these sheer cliffs nest 60,000 breeding pairs of Brünnich's guillemots, and the air rang with the laughing calls of 120,000 birds. There was a constant cloud of wings overhead as thousands of birds flew back and forth between their rocky nests and the ocean to bathe and feed. Rarely, a chick could be seen; many adults were still incubating eggs. As they raced overhead, a few of these travelers "decorated" the Zodiacs and passengers. Occasionally a guillemot would pop up from beneath the surface of the water right next to a Zodiac, then skitter away as though it were trying to run on the water with its wings.



At the far side of the cliffs nest a colony of kittiwakes. Their "kit-ti-waaaaake" calls were not quite as raucous as the guillemots, but only because there were fewer of them. The birds were quite animated, and we soon discovered why: there was an Arctic fox on the prowl in their midst. The fox had already caught its lunch; it had a bird in its mouth as it trotted along, first across, then up the cliff. It ascended a steep snow slope as though it were flat ground. We were all duly impressed.

Long camera lenses and spotting scopes proved very difficult to use as the ocean was quite active. The Zodiacs bobbed like fishing tackle, and embarking and disembarking required patience and wise timing. This was definitely one of the more adventurous Zodiac cruises we've experienced thus far.

Back on board, it was finally time for breakfast – and for some, a nap.

As we sailed to our next destination, a small spattering of lucky passengers spotted a minke whale, but it decided to not bask in the spotlight too long. It was gone before most of us caught a glimpse of it.

We sailed on to Palanderbukta, where we went for a hike over a gorgeous polar desert. Normally a fairly lifeless terrain, we were delighted to discover many tiny Arctic flowers and lichens there.



Frost circles and upheavals made beautiful patterns in the landscape, and the occasional purple sandpiper dashed in front of us. We discovered an inland glacier not visible from the sea, and the colors were mesmerizing. Though the surface was coated with layers of dust and dirt, the bright blues of glacial ice still shone through, bright and unmistakable. The quiet of the landscape was deeply serene for those who had the chance to enjoy it.



Alas, the quiet must eventually end, and we soon enough found ourselves back in the hustle and bustle of the ship. We enjoyed a hearty lunch – had we really done all of this before lunchtime? – and relaxed in the bar as we made our next transit. A lecture on the history of whaling given by Jodi helped to pass the time, as did an unexpected opportunity to see more walruses hauled out on a beach as we passed. A few more naps, and it was time for dinner. As we finished yet another amazing meal, we arrived at our third destination of the day: Bråsvellbreen, a massive tidal glacier that, along with its connected neighbor Austfonna, creates a 180 km wide ice front, complete with gorgeous waterfalls cascading into the sea. It was a beautiful, peaceful sight, and a wonderful way to wrap up a busy day.

Day 7 – Sunday 27th, July. Sundnenset, Diskobukta

21:00 GPS Position: 77°24' N / 019°42' E

Wind: E 3 Km/h • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +4.8°C

We began the day with a landing at Sundneset, greeted by calm conditions and expansive views across the tundra. Our walk took us over gentle hills dotted with reindeer carcasses, a stark reminder of the Arctic's brutal cycles. Birdlife was abundant, filling the silence with calls and flight.



But the real magic came in the form of Arctic foxes. We first spotted two of them curled up, sleeping in the sun. As they woke and stretched, a third fox appeared, and it quickly became clear these were young siblings. What followed was a breathtaking display of playful energy, they tumbled through moss, tugged on tufts of reindeer fur, and wrestled with each other in pure, wild joy. It was one of those rare encounters that leaves everyone smiling.



In the afternoon, we headed to Diskobukta, originally planning a landing. But while scouting from the ship, we spotted a polar bear family in the distance, a mother with two cubs. The landing was quickly cancelled, and we prepared for a Zodiac cruise instead.

Though the conditions were rough with sizeable waves, our guests braved the elements, knowing the reward could be extraordinary. And it was. As we approached the shore, a fourth bear appeared, walking along the beach with confidence and grace. At one point, all four bears were visible in a single frame, an unforgettable sight.

It was a day of contrasts: the stillness of playful foxes in the morning, and the raw power of polar bears in the wild sea light of the afternoon.

Day 8 – Monday 28th, July. Burgerbukta, Gashmna

22:00 GPS Position: 76°58.' N / 015°10' E

Wind: SE 9 Km/h • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Fog • Air Temperature: +6.2°C

This morning, we embarked on our planned Zodiac cruise to Burgerbukta. The early morning low fog, softly tinged with sunlight, wrapped the scenery outside the boat in an extraordinarily mysterious aura.

The steep mountain slopes lining both sides of the fjord and the icebergs scattered within it flickered in and out of view—here a jagged peak peeking through the mist, there a glint of blue ice vanishing into the haze. Faint sounds drifted to our ears: the high-pitched calls of kittiwakes circling above, and the gentle gurgle of waterfalls cascading down distant cliffs, muffled by the fog.



We drifted slowly along the west bank of the fjord, our engine barely a whisper against the quiet of the Arctic. Suddenly, ahead of us, through the thinning mist, a movement in the water caught our eye. Along the coast at the foot of a hanging glacier, pure white shapes broke the surface, then disappeared again—repeatedly, like ghosts dancing on the water, and that is --belugas!

The pilots, wordlessly respecting the moment, cut the engines to avoid disturbing these aquatic elves—switching to gliding quietly with oars.

Along the coastline and the glacier's frosty edge, the belugas were feeding intensively, their white forms dotting the water like scattered snowflakes. The Zodiac drifted silently with the calm current, as if suspended in time, while we watched, breathless, as the belugas moved in sync with the rhythm of the Arctic.

In the afternoon, we landed at Gashmna for a hiking expedition.



The long hiking group faced the toughest physical challenge of the entire voyage—traversing rugged terrain that tested their endurance. Meanwhile, the two medium groups were rewarded with stunning views: one at the bird cliffs, where seabirds wheeled above the waves, and the other along the coastline, where the Arctic ocean met the land in a quiet embrace.



Here, we encountered echoes of the past: weathered whale bones, remnants of the whaling era, half-buried in the tundra. In the distance, the landscape bore the marks of the present: moraines stretching in all directions, left behind by retreating glaciers—a silent testament to the changing Arctic.

As the landing activity drew to a close, **brave souls** took a leap (quite literally): stripping off their jackets, they plunged into the frigid sea, challenging themselves with a polar ice swim. The cold water bit at their skin, but their laughter echoed across the bay—adding a vivid, unforgettable chapter to our voyage.

The afternoon ended with tired but grinning faces. We had hiked, explored, reflected on history, and witnessed nature's power—and for those who took the plunge, they had even touched the soul of the Arctic. It was a day of contrasts: effort and reward, past and present, calm and daring—all woven into the fabric of our Arctic adventure.

Day 9 – Tuesday 29th, July. Poolepynten

21:00 GPS Position: 78°08' N / 010°44' E

Wind: SE 5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Fog • Air Temperature: +7.5°C



The day began quietly at Poolepynten, wrapped in the kind of calm that only rain and low cloud can bring to the High Arctic. Despite the moody weather, a special sight awaited the early risers—walrus, thick-skinned and formidable, were hauled out on the shingle beach.

Their massive bodies lay in a jumbled, blubbery heap, occasionally shifting or raising a whiskered head. Offshore, puffins flitted about the ship, their colorful beaks and frantic wingbeats adding a splash of charm to the otherwise gray morning.



Originally, the plan for the afternoon was to visit Alkhornet, a dramatic headland known for its bird cliffs and the potential to spot Arctic Fox. However, thick fog rolled in, making scouting for polar bears impossible and forcing the expedition team to cancel the landing for safety reasons. In its place, Emily, one of the onboard specialists, delivered an insightful lecture titled Protecting Our Noisy Oceans. Drawing from her years of experience in the offshore oil and gas sector, she explored the impacts of industrial underwater noise on marine life—and the importance of mitigating these effects in an increasingly busy ocean.

Later in the day, the ship cruised past Barentsburg, the Russian mining settlement that stands as a cultural and historical counterpoint to the otherwise stark Arctic wilderness. Though the visit was brief, the glimpse of Soviet-era buildings and signs in Cyrillic served as a reminder of the human presence that persists in these remote latitudes.

As evening settled in, Captains Cocktails and the slideshow presentation took place before dinner while the ship headed toward the shelf edge, in the hope of spotting whales. With the horizon stretching into infinite shades of blue and gray, the sense of anticipation was palpable. While sightings can never be guaranteed, the experience of scanning the vast, open ocean—knowing that giants may be moving silently just below the surface—was its own kind of thrill.

After dinner time while everyone was having their last catch up and sharing photos and memories about the trip. A sperm whale showed up. It was just like the same whale we saw on the first day and now he is greeting us again on our way back to Longyearbyen. What a wonderful way to end the trip.

As night fell, the vessel turned toward Longyearbyen, sailing quietly under the low Arctic sky, closing another chapter in the high latitudes with memories of wildlife, weather, and the deep silence of the sea.

Day 10 – Monday 30st, July. Disembarkation, Longyearbyen

21:00 GPS Position: 78°22.3' N / 015°64.7' E

Wind: SSW 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +7°C

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 am. One last ride on the Zodiac then we are back to the civilization.

Richard Bach wrote in his book "Illusions" that goodbyes are necessary for the next reunion in the future. Perhaps this thought can serve as a consolation, and we can wait patiently and happily for the next opportunity to be together again.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1280 nautical miles

Most northern point sailed: 81°16.631 N, 020°27.'907 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 great pleasure and a privilege travelling with you.

Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team



Back row: Emily, Rao, Mark, Jodi, Adam, Katrin, Margaret

Front row: Georgina, Hazel, Aitana, Kana

MV "Ortelius"

Oceanwide

21st July to 30th July, 2025

Location	Date
1. Longyearbyen	21/7 PM
2. Fjortende Julibukta	22/7 AM
3. Ny-Ålesund	22/7 PM
4. Monacobreen	23/7 AM
5. Texas Bar	23/7 PM
6. Sea Ice	24/7 PM
7. Parryøya	25/7 AM
8. Phippsøya	25/7 PM
9. Alkefjellet	26/7 AM
10. Palanderbukta	26/7 AM
11. Bråsvellbreen	26/7 PM
12. Sundneset	27/7 AM
13. Diskobukta	27/7 PM
14. Burgerbukta	28/7 AM
15. Gåshamna	28/7 PM
16. Poolepynten	29/7 AM
17. Barentsburg	29/7 PM
18. Longyearbyen	30/7 AM



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 - species seen on OTL08

BIRDS

English Name	Latin	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul
Red-throated diver 紅喉潛鳥	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	X						X		
Northern Fulmar 暴风鰲	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pink-footed Goose 粉腳雁	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		X				X			
Barnacle Goose 白颊黑雁	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X	X	X		X		X	X	
Common Eider 欧绒鸭	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed Duck 长尾鸭	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>							X		
Ringed Plover 环颈鸻	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	X	X							
Purple Sandpiper 紫滨鹬	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	X	X				X	X	X	X
Red Knot 红腹滨鹬	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		X							
Grey Phalarope 灰瓣足鹬	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		X							
Red-necked Phalarope 红颈瓣蹼鹬	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>									
Pomarine Skua 中贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>					X				
Arctic Skua 棕色贼鸥/ 北极贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Great Skua 大贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		X							
Glaucous Gull 北极鸥	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kittiwake 三趾鸻	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ivory Gull 白鸥	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>			X	X					
Arctic Tern 北极燕鸥	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Brunnich's Guillemot 厚嘴崖海鸦	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot 白翅斑海鸮	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk 短翅小海雀	<i>Alle alle</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puffin 海鹦	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	X	X						X	X
Snow Bunting 雪鹀	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X		X		X	X	

MAMMALS

English Name	Latin	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul
Walrus 海象	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>				X	X	X			X
Bearded seal 髯海豹	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			X	X					

Ringed seal 环斑海豹	<i>Phoca hispida</i>				X					
Harp seal 竖琴海豹	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>				X				X	
Hooded seal 冠海豹	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	X			X					
Common /Harbour seal 斑海豹	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		X				X			
Minke Whale 小须鲸	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	X					X			
Sei Whale 塞鲸	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	X								X
Blue Whale 蓝鲸	<i>Balaenopentera musculus</i>									
Fin Whale 长须鲸	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>									
Sperm Whale 抹香鲸	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	X								
Beluga 白鲸	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>								X	
Polar Bear 北极熊	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>				X	X		X		
Arctic Fox 北极狐	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		X					X		
Spitsbergen Reindeer 驯鹿	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		X							

Adam Burke – Expedition Leader



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.

Hazel Pittwood –Asst. Exp. Leader



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!

Mark Whiffin - Expedition Guide



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.

Georgina Strange – Expedition Guide



Georgina is a professional nature photographer and general wildlife enthusiast from the Falkland Islands. Her rather unique upbringing on a very small and remote island nature reserve has instilled a deep passion for wild places, and you'll most likely find her out on a cliff edge in a storm, revelling in the gales of wind that frequent the Falklands!

Georgina studied in England for sixth-form college, followed by an adventure to Australia for her university degree in Photography.

After managing her family's conservation trust on New Island in the Falklands for many years, regularly working with the many visiting expedition ships shoreside, Georgina swapped a land-based life for an ocean-based one and started as expedition photographer to South Georgia and the Antarctic in 2017, and to the Arctic in 2019, often switching roles to work as the on-board ornithologist to share her love of the winged creatures of the world, too!

During her off-ship season, Georgina runs her own wildlife photography tours at home to fulfil her passion for making captivating images of nature. Whenever possible, she most enjoys balancing out the time spent guiding in cold and windy places for quality time in the hotter and sunnier climes of the world!

Georgina's photography has made it to Outdoor Photographer of the Year, Bird Photographer of the Year, Wild Art Photographer and the finals of the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year, as well as several well-known nature photography magazines and smaller competitions. Always happy to share knowledge and techniques, maybe you will go home with some competition-worthy images of your special trip, too!

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide



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.

Xinpeng Rao - Expedition Guide



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。

Yu Kan (Kana) Cheng - Translator



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。

Emily Clarke – Expedition Guide



Emily grew up by the ocean and has always found it a source of inspiration and wonder. She has a strong sense of adventure and embraces opportunities whenever they arise, which has resulted in some amazing journeys.

A passion for wildlife conservation, travel and working with people has led her to work onboard expedition vessels.

Familiar with life at sea, Emily divides her time between two fairly different roles. The first as an expedition guide, and the second as a Marine Mammal Observer in the oil and gas industry,

working onboard seismic vessels; protecting marine mammals from anthropogenic sound sources in the ocean.

Emily has over 15 years' experience working with wildlife, both in natural habitats and in rehabilitation. She has spent over ten years working with gorillas, which saw her travel to remote parts of Africa collecting data on wild gorillas, and taking part in conservation and community development projects addressing human-wildlife conflicts.

During her time off, Emily enjoys paddle boarding, kayaking and diving, in-between preparing her latest lectures and planning her next adventure.

Jodi Gaylord – Expedition Guide



Jodi grew up in a relatively warm part of the world (Texas, USA), never even seeing a snowfall until she was 21 years old. When she moved to the mountains of Salt Lake City, Utah, to finish her university degree, she fell head over heels in love with the fluffy white flakes that blanketed the region every winter. Since then, she has wanted to spend more and more time in colder and colder climes.

After working in the medical field while pursuing her degree in the history of ancient medicine, she pursued her love of nature and wild animals by becoming a professional wildlife photographer, running her own business for 13 years. It was during her photography travels that she first experienced the polar regions, traveling to the Canadian High Arctic in 2010. She became mesmerized by the icebergs, and was quite surprised to find herself falling for a place without trees – something she had not thought possible before. It was during her first trip to Antarctica in 2017 that the polar bug (disguised as a penguin) finally bit her in an absolutely incurable way. She knew that she had to share these amazing places with other people, so she decided to become a guide. Throwing herself into learning the history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration, she also studied how to be a safe and effective polar guide, which culminated in her completion of the Expedition Guide Academy's Comprehensive Guide Course in 2023. When she is not on ship, she spends her time in a warm place – her home in Hawaii, where scuba diving, snorkeling, and asking “Why am I doing this?!?” while participating in triathlons are among her favorite past times.

Katrijn Daenen – Ships Doctor



Katrijn Daenen was born in the southern part of the Netherlands and has been working as a medical doctor since 2018. Currently she is specializing in internal medicine and completing her PhD at the Erasmus MC, Rotterdam. Within the internal medicine field her main interests are emergency medicine and infectious diseases.

During medical school, she became curious about the world beyond Europe, which led her to do several internships abroad — including Suriname and South Africa. Besides gaining additional knowledge about infectious diseases, these experiences also taught her how

to work in different healthcare settings. After spending time in these tropical regions, it was in 2023 that she fell in love with the polar landscape.

Since the age of six she is a fanatic football player and today you can still find her on the pitch three times a week. In her free time, she also enjoys spending time with friends and family, surfing, and reading.

Attending the crew of Oceanwide again while being in such a special place on earth, is something she is really looking forward to!



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 21st 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 +/- 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: 22nd July 2025

Day 2: Fjortende Julibukta and Ny-Alesund

- 0715 Wake-up call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Buffet breakfast will be served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0830 We will have a **MANDATORY** AECO/Zodiac and bear safety Briefing in the **Bar on Deck 6.** *Please check in at the door: you must attend in order to be able to go ashore and in our zodiacs during this trip.*
- 0945 We hope to start disembarkation for a **zodiac cruise at Fjortende Julibukta (14th of July Bay).** This area has lush vegetation, making it a good place to spot Svalbard Reindeer. We hope to see them here, along with Atlantic Puffin, Harbour Seal and Arctic Fox, along with cruising along the beautiful glacier front.
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-Alesund.**
Payment in the shop is preferred by card only.
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



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 22nd 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 +/- We hope to start 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 whale.
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 Texas Bar.**
This site is named after a trapper's hut which you will see ashore and is a fantastic place for hiking, boasting a variety of flora and fauna.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.

At the end of our time ashore we will give you the opportunity to **POLAR PLUNGE!!!** Please wear your swimwear under your clothes.
We will provide you with towels; please don't take towels from your 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: 24th 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 **Aitana** in the **Bar on Deck 6** for her lecture about **Sea Ice**
- 1100 +/- **Mark** will give his lecture about **Birds of Svalbard**. Please join him in the **Bar on Deck 6.**
- 1230-1330 Lunch will be served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**
- 1400 +/- **Hazel** will give her presentation about **Polar Bears**.
Please join her 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.**



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 25th July 2025

Day 5 – Isflakbukta - Phippsøya & Sandvika - Parryøya

0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!

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

Today we plan to explore the furthest North land-masses in the Svalbard archipelago, Seven Islands (Sjuøyane), visiting Phippsøya and Parryøya.

0845+/- Disembarkation for **going ashore at Isflakbukta on Phippsøya.**
We hope to provide options for long, medium and short hikes.
The island is named after English explorer Constantine John Phipps.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.

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

1400 Disembarkation for a **zodiac cruise at Sandvika, Parryøya.**
We will be on the lookout for wildlife, including Atlantic walrus.
The island is named after English explorer William Edward Parry.
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.

Please check the airport bus transfer list at reception.
Make sure you have confirmed which bus you need before lunch.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 26th July 2025

Day 6 – Alkefjellet, Palanderbukta and Bråsvellbreen

- 0530 Wakeup-call for early morning zodiac cruise
- 0600 We hope to Disembarkation for an **early morning 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.
- You will be back on board in time for breakfast.*
- 0800-0900 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4**.
- 1030 +/- Disembarkation for **going ashore at Palanderbukta**. We will provide options for long, medium and short hikes.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1300 -1400 Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4**.
- 1530 Please join the Expedition Team in **the Bar on Deck 6** for a short recap to hear plans for tomorrow.
- Straight after this Jodi will give her lecture about the **History of Whaling in Svalbard**.
- 1730 +/- We hope to be able to **ship cruise Bråsvellbreen**; a spectacular ice-front which is part of the Austfonna ice cap, the largest ice-front in the Northern hemisphere
- 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: 27th July 2025

Day 7 – Sundneset & Diskobukta

- 0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845 +/- Disembarkation for **going ashore at Sundneset**. We hope to offer hiking options at this lowland-tundra with its rich vegetation. We hope to spot a variety of bird life and may see Reindeer feeding here.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.
- 1230-1330 Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 1445 Disembarkation for a **landing at Diskobukta**. This site is a fantastic place for hiking across the vast Arctic desert landscape.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs
- 1830 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: 28th July 2025

Day 8 – Burgerbukta & Gåshamna West

- 0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!
- 0730-0830 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
- 0845+/- 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!



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 29th 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.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 30th July 2025

Day 10 - Longyearbyen

Ensure all luggage is placed outside your cabin by 07:15 latest as we need to move it to the pier via zodiacs 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 guests on flight **DY391** – **RED** baggage tags.
Please identify your luggage on the dock and take it with you on your bus.

09:00

Disembarkation for guests on flight **SK4425** – **BLUE** baggage tags.
Please identify your luggage on the dock before boarding your bus.
The luggage will be loaded into a truck and will meet you at the airport.
The bus will take you into town for a drop-off at Svalbard Butikken for some free time. It will depart from the same place at **11:30** for the airport.

09:00

Disembarkation for guests on flight **SK4493** – **YELLOW** baggage tags.
Please identify your luggage on the dock before boarding your bus.
The luggage will be loaded into a truck and will meet you at the airport.
The bus will take you into town for a drop-off at Svalbard Butikken for some free time. It will depart from the same place at **14:30** for the airport.

09:00

Disembarkation for guests staying in Longyearbyen.
Please collect your luggage and take it on the bus to town with you.

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.