



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Longyearbyen – Longyearbyen

30th July 2025 – 08th August 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 days no needing stop. *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	[Ukraine]
Third Officer:	Ian Vincent	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Alexsander Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Second Engineer:	Jhunwel Yuzon	[Philippines]
Third Engineer:	Yurii Vitkovskyi	[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:	Charlot Laumen	[The Netherlands]
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	Gabi Kolodko	[Poland]
Expedition Guide	Aitana Forcén-Vazquez	[Spain]
Expedition Guide	Rao Xingpeng	[China]
Expedition Guide	Emily Clarke	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide	Jody Gaylord	[USA]
Ship's Doctor	Anee-Mieke Theunissen	[The Netherlands]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Wednesday 30th July 2025. Longyearbyen, Svalbard. Embarkation Day

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

Wind: SE 3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +5.5°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 m/v *Ortelius*.

At 16:00, we were all ready to board the ship on the coal pier and start our amazing journey.



Once all guests and luggage were safely on board, we gathered on deck 6 for an official welcome and a mandatory safety briefing held out on the top deck. This was followed by the Captain's welcome 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. The moment of departure had truly arrived, and a shared sense of excitement buzzed in the crisp Arctic air.



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 restaurant looked magnificent, and the dining crew attended to us with a unique friendliness and charisma. The meal was generous and varied, giving everyone a chance to relax into life on board and enjoy a full belly before heading back downstairs to pick up our muck boots on the Lecture Room.

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 – Thursday 31st July, Fjortende Julibukta, Ny Ålesund

21:00 GPS Position: 79°20.'N / 010°38'E

Wind: S 3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +7.4°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 here and there amongst the cliff faces, these colorful little birds were the show stopping favorites. There were not many, but they were very easy to see and patient with our presence. They flew above our heads and in front of our boats, flitting quickly by to the utter delight of all.



Approaching the glacier, we saw bits of movement on the left-hand hillside high above our heads: reindeer! At least three were quietly grazing on the vegetation, including a calf. Slowly they all disappeared behind another hill, quietly continuing their morning meal.

The glacier itself was something to behold, its size difficult to judge without something to provide perspective. Little 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 fresh-water ice; it tasted 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?

The afternoon found us taking a short Zodiac ride to Ny-Ålesund. 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 saw one trot through town and under a building. Ringed plovers skittered across the ground, noticeable only because of their movement, so good is their camouflage, while Arctic terns soared above us, dive-bombing *en masse* those unlucky or unwise enough to veer too close to their nests.



After a long wander, 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 followed with a brief overview of Ny-Ålesund's history from its earliest days as a coal mining settlement through to its development as a hub of scientific research. We concluded the planned itinerary for the day with our first plated dinner. Delicious.



Day 3 – Friday 01st August, Texas Bar, Monacobreen

21:00 GPS Position: 79°41'N / 013°50'E

Wind: NNW 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +6.4°C

We awoke at 07:15 to the soft, dulcet tones of Adam's wake-up call, preparing us for our morning 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 given the choice of joining the expedition guides on a long hike, a medium hike, or a leisurely stroll close to the shoreline. Once we had all made our selections, it was a pleasure to stretch our legs and explore the tundra flora, with the moss campion looking particularly beautiful. We had the opportunity to look inside 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.

Following our morning exploring the landing site we all reconvened at the shoreline, where many of us braved the chilly waters participating in the polar plunge. Some ran in briefly, shrieking at the shock of the icy water, while others embraced the experience fully, with a few even taking the plunge multiple times, clearly reveling in the cold more than the rest of us.

During lunch, we cruised slowly through the ice-choked waters of Liefdefjorden, as we headed towards 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.

In the afternoon, we boarded the Zodiacs once again and headed towards the glacier. The peaks of the surrounding mountains behind the glacier 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 afternoon, putting on a spectacular show. Several impressive calving events occurred, one of the most dramatic just as we were returning to *Ortelius*. With a thunderous roar, a large column of glacial ice broke away and plunged into the water, a breath-taking reminder of nature's raw power.

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. Gabi gave us an informative and engaging introduction to the history of Svalbard, followed by an insightful talk on Monacobreen's glacial dynamics, given by Rao.

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



Day 4 – Saturday 02nd August, Into the Pack Ice

21:00 GPS Position: 80°49'N / 016°06'E

Wind: WSW 7 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +5°C

At 08:15 this morning, the ship pushed gently into the edge of the pack ice, marking the beginning of a day that would be etched into the memory of everyone on board. Despite a light drizzle at times and patches of fog, viewing conditions were good, and the mood on deck was one of eager anticipation.



It wasn't long before the first wildlife encounters began. Along the ice edge, hooded seals were spotted, some swimming gracefully through leads of open water, others hauled out on the ice, their distinctive patterning marking them out clearly. Bearded seals soon followed, their large, whiskered faces peeking out from the ice floes as they rested in scattered solitude. Birdlife was active throughout the morning. Fulmars and kittiwakes wheeled around the ship, their calls echoing over the water, while little auks and Brünnich's guillemots made occasional flybys, adding to the rich variety of Arctic species seen.

As the morning progressed, the fog began to lift, revealing the full, stark beauty of the frozen seascape. With the improved visibility came a shared sense of purpose: every pair of binoculars was turned toward the ice in the hope of spotting a polar bear. The search was intense and constant, as the ship cruised deeper into the ice, surrounded by silence broken only by the creak and groan of shifting floes.



The lecture program gave a chance to warm up and learn more about the environment surrounding the vessel. Aitana gave an informative lecture on sea ice and its vital role in the Arctic ecosystem. Mark followed with an engaging session on the birds of Svalbard, while Hazel rounded out the series with a passionate talk on polar bears, their habits, challenges, and importance as apex predators.



Mid-afternoon brought a comforting ritual: steaming hot chocolate served on deck with optional rum. With the ice all around and the occasional seal still in view, it was a simple pleasure that felt profoundly special.

At 18:15, guests gathered for the daily recap and a briefing on the plans for tomorrow, sharing observations and favorite moments from the day. Finally, at 20:00, the ship emerged from the pack ice, leaving behind a realm of stillness, wildlife, and wonder. It had been a day of discovery, learning, and quiet awe, an unforgettable chapter in the journey north.

Day 5 – Sunday 03rd August. Alkefjellet, Torrellneset

21:00 GPS Position: 79°16'N / 022°47'E

Wind: NW 5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Clear • Air Temperature: +6.1°C

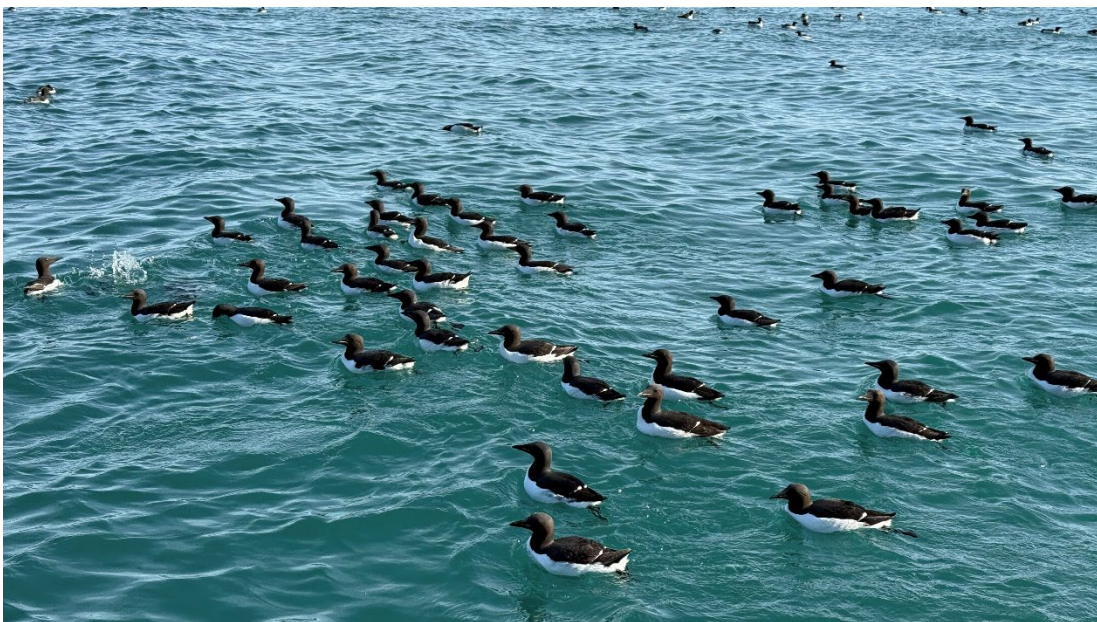
Overnight *Ortelius* continued south from the pack ice, back towards Svalbard. The southerly wind had generated some swell, which provided a little bit of “ocean motion”. We awoke in calm waters once again, as *Ortelius* made her way down through the northern part of Hinlopen Strait. We were engulfed in a bank of dense fog, which we were happy to leave behind during breakfast.

At 08:00 we started boarding the Zodiacs and headed out across a calm sea towards the spectacular bird cliffs of Alkefjellet (Guillemot Mountain), named after the countless Brünnich's Guillemots that breed there during the summer. Overhead the sky was blue, and the spectacular cliff scenery was bathed in glorious early morning sun. As soon as the last Zodiac had departed, the ship moved 8km along the coast to a position where she awaited us at the end of our cruise.



For well over two hours, we enjoyed a leisurely Zodiac ride along the foot of the cliffs. At first it was the waterfalls that delighted everyone, as rainbows danced in their spray. There were small pockets of birds on the cliffs, but it was nothing compared to the spectacle that lay ahead. Although Brünnich's guillemots are the dominant species at Alkefjellet, we also had occasional sightings of black guillemots, kittiwakes and glaucous gulls. One of the latter was found on a rock enjoying a meal from a guillemot carcass.

At the far end of the cliffs the Zodiac cruise reached its climax. The towering cliffs, over a hundred meters high in places, were covered from top to bottom with Brünnich's guillemots. It's hard to be certain of the number of birds, but the most recent estimate is over 60,000 breeding pairs. Not only was it an incredible sight, but the noise and smell were also an assault on the senses. Overhead the sky was a veritable blizzard of birds. And a short distance offshore, the surface of the water was covered with thousands of birds bathing and diving for food. It was a sight to behold, and an experience we will never forget.



The time passed quickly, and the Zodiacs were soon heading back to the ship. As we enjoyed a warming beverage in the bar, *Ortelius* got underway, heading south-east through Hinlopen Strait towards our afternoon destination.

After a hearty lunch served up by the ever-attentive hotel department, we enjoyed some whale sightings as *Ortelius* made her final approach to the anchorage at Torellneset. On this exposed shingly point on the south-west side of Svalbard's second largest island, Nordaustlandet, we hoped to find some Walrus. Zodiacs were launched and the expedition team soon declared that the site was safe for a landing. It was a slow ride to shore in the Zodiacs, as the wind had risen to almost 30 knots and the sea was choppy. A bit of a reality check after all the nice weather we had enjoyed.



On shore, we set off in three groups with the guides to explore the area. The main attraction was a large group of male Walrus hauled out on the very end of the point. In line with Svalbard regulations, we rotated through the site in our three small groups. It was a fantastic sight as the huddle entertained us with their grunts, growls and bodily belches. Some individuals swam just offshore and came up into the shallows to show off their massive heads, rough skin and impressive tusks. The photographic opportunities were fantastic.



Besides viewing the Walruses, Torellneset gave us the opportunity to take a walk in a unique ecosystem known as a polar desert. The barren landscape resembled a desert in every way, with the only signs of life at ground level being tiny lichens clinging to the pebbles, and small patches of vegetation scattered here and there. It was a complete contrast to the typical Arctic landscape. The guides led us around a loop that covered the upper and lower parts of the site, explaining points of interest along the way. It was a pleasant downwind Zodiac ride back to the ship, where we prepared for the evening briefing and recap, and another sumptuous plated dinner.

After dinner, Captain Remmert had one more treat in store for us. He guided *Ortelius* in for a look at the spectacular ice front of Bråsvelbreen. This colossal cliff of ice stretches unbroken for 160km and is the largest of its kind in the northern hemisphere. At this time of year, the meltwater creates fantastic waterfalls that plunge off the ice cap into the sea. It was a fantastic way to end an exciting and unforgettable day!

Day 6 – Monday 04th August. Langeøya and Ship cruise

21:00 GPS Position: 78°12'N / 021°07'E

Wind: NE 8 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +5,4°C

During the night *Ortelius* passed by the Bastion Islands, a small cluster of rocky islets at the south end of Hinlopen Strait. A polar bear was spotted, and Expedition Leader Adam didn't hesitate to make a call over the public address system just before midnight. Captain Remmert guided *Ortelius* in closer to shore to provide the best view possible of the slumbering bear on top of an island called Langeøya. We moved on, circling the islands, and three more bears were spotted. The decision was made to drop anchor for the night and explore these islands further in the morning.

It was another bright, sunny day that greeted us, with a cool breeze blowing. After breakfast we boarded the Zodiacs for an exploration cruise of the rarely visited Bastion Islands. Our focus was on the largest island in the group, Langeøya, where bears were spotted from the ship last night, and another was seen this morning. A convoy of Zodiacs headed directly for the bear that was visible from the ship, but unfortunately it was not at all interested in moving from its lying position on the side of a rocky hill. It briefly stood up at one point but quickly laid back down again.



We headed around the western end of the island in search of other bears, and another one was soon spotted resting on the top edge of a snow patch, just below a ridge line. Again, despite being aware of our presence, it showed no interest at all in coming down for a closer

look at us. Clearly, these bears were in energy conservation mode, with it being a warm day and there not being much food around. We continued along the north side of the island, and another two bears were found quite close to each other, laying on a snow patch. They also chose to stay where they were and showed little sign of movement.

At this point the weather was fantastic and the sea perfectly calm, so Expedition Leader Adam decided to continue and make a full circumnavigation of the island, in the hope that more bears might be found. Unfortunately, no more were seen, and even more unfortunately, the weather quickly took a turn for the worse. Quite suddenly, the wind increased, and the sea became rather choppy. At this point we were committed to circumnavigating and were forced to pass around the east end of the island in quite rough conditions. Fortunately, it didn't last long, as we were soon on a heading towards the ship with the wind behind us.

No sooner were we all back onboard, and dense fog engulfed the ship. Our timing had been perfect. The fog remained for much of the afternoon, as *Ortelius* steamed on towards our destination for tomorrow morning. The afternoon was a relaxing affair with a gentle rocking motion that induced a welcome afternoon nap for some.

Two lectures were laid on by members of the expedition team, for those who wanted to indulge in a little entertainment and learning. First up was Emily with a fascinating talk titled "Protecting Our Noisy Oceans". Drawing on her experience with the oil and gas industry, Emily gave an overview of measures being put into practice to reduce underwater noise pollution. Allan told the extraordinary story of Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen's Arctic Drift Expedition in the *Fram*, 1893-96, which is arguably one of the greatest polar adventure stories of all time.

Just as the evening briefing and recap was about to start, *Ortelius* burst out of the fog and into sunshine. Barentsøya, the fourth largest island in Svalbard, was suddenly visible off our starboard side. We passed through Freemansund, the channel that separates Barentsøya from Edgeøya, with the mountains of both islands clearly visible either side of us. Just after dinner, *Ortelius* came to anchor at Sundneset (Sound Point) at the southern end of Barentsøya, where we hoped to make an excursion in the morning. Here we enjoyed a quiet and motionless night.

Day 7 – Tuesday 05th August. Sundneset, Diskobukta

21:00 GPS Position: 77°19' N / 019°29' E

Wind: NE 5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Fog • Air Temperature: +6.2°C

The day began in the soft light of the Arctic morning at Sundneset, a picturesque and verdant corner of Svalbard where the tundra rolls gently toward the coastline. Under a moody sky brushed with early light, the expedition team made their landing to scout for polar bears. As the scouting team ventured out in preparation for the afternoon's activity, a polar bear was sighted swimming on the opposite side the headland. Prioritizing safety, the team made the decision to cancel the landing and instead conduct a Zodiac cruise along the shoreline. This unexpected shift became a highlight of the day.



The green tundra landscape surprised many with its unexpected vibrancy, dotted with the last blooming Arctic flora of the season visible from the Zodiacs. Svalbard Reindeer grazed quietly in the distance, their thick coats a reminder of the harsher months they are built to endure. On the slope above the coast, guests caught sight of the Würzburger Hütte, a modest structure with a rich history, a symbol of human perseverance and scientific curiosity in one of the world's most extreme environments. Dotted along the shoreline were groups of barnacle and pink-footed geese, their presence a symbol of the migratory lifelines that pulse through these remote islands. A dramatic moment unfolded soon after: an Arctic fox made a bold and agile attempt to catch a pink-footed goose, a stark display of predator and prey in the raw rhythms of the Arctic wild.

Shortly after, guests were treated to another unforgettable sighting, the swimming polar bear was now ashore, first seen inland before it slowly made its way back to the coast. It paused to

investigate a walrus carcass, circling and sniffing the remains. It was a stark and fascinating encounter, revealing the ecological web of life and death that defines this remote region.

Nearby, another Arctic fox could be seen foraging along the shoreline, scanning for scraps while keeping a wary eye on the much larger predator close by.



The scheduled afternoon landing at Diskobukta was also aborted, this time due to the presence of two polar bears resting above the landing site. With conditions unsuitable for going ashore, the team once again shifted plans to a Zodiac cruise, navigating the dramatic coastline of this glacially carved bay.



While waiting to pick up passengers, a young bearded seal curiously approached the zodiacs, swimming between them and offering an up-close look at this sleek and inquisitive Arctic resident.

The cruise continued along the cliffs of the Diskobukta canyon, home to a staggering colony of over 100,000 nesting kittiwakes. Their calls echoed off the stone, and the sky and sea alike teemed with movement — a truly overwhelming spectacle of Arctic birdlife. Below the cliffs, guests observed an old trapper's cabin, weathered by time and a testament to the island's human history.

Then, as if the day hadn't already offered enough, a third polar bear was spotted, this one to the west of the cabin, roaming the edge of the hillside. It was yet another powerful reminder of the Arctic's ever-present wildness and the privilege of exploring it.

As the Zodiacs returned to the ship the fog rolled in providing an ethereal atmosphere, it was clear to all onboard: this was a day that would not soon be forgotten. From serene tundra to dramatic wildlife encounters, the Arctic had once again revealed its power to surprise, humble, and inspire, all within the span of a single extraordinary day.

Day 8 – Wednesday 06th August. Burgerbukta, Hornbreen

22:00 GPS Position: 77°02.' N / 016°35' E

Wind: ENE 10 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Clear • Air Temperature: +6.2°C

Since last night, a powerful weather system has been passing south of Svalbard. By this morning, gusts at sea had already peaked at 50 knots/hour. As *Ortelius* sailed to the west side of Burgerbukta, we finally found some shelter from the wind by the mountain range Luciakammen. The Zodiacs were lowered steadily one by one from the crane into the sea, after which we began Zodiac cruising along the western shore towards Paierlbreen.



During our cruise along the western coast, we observed numerous sedimentary rocks formed during the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. Eroded by waterfalls formed from melting hanging glaciers, these rocks have developed beautiful red carbonate surfaces, adding colors to the ink-wash landscape of the western shore. Numerous glistening drift ice and small icebergs floated along the frontal zone of Paierlbreen Glacier, where Kittiwakes and Ivory gulls soared intermittently above the water, foraging leisurely. As our cruise approached its conclusion, the ocean currents grew increasingly turbulent. We managed to return to the *Ortelius* just before strong winds engulfed the area.

Given the disastrous wind direction and scale for the originally scheduled afternoon landing, we altered our plan and navigated to Hornbreen at the terminus of Hornsund fjord, awaiting weather changes. During this interim, Jodi delivered a lecture on whaling history in the bar, prompting us to reflect on the reckless exploitation that once occurred in this pristine land.



As the dense fog finally lifted, Adam promptly launched a Zodiac for a brief yet breathtaking glacier cruise. Braving gusty winds, we marveled at the intricately textured termini of Hornbreen and Storbreen, their surfaces a mosaic of snow-white and cobalt-blue striations, embedded with sediments from millennia past and scalloped by ocean currents. These vivid details made us forget the biting cold, immersing us in the transient grandeur of the icebergs before their final retreat.



The Zodiac cruise had already exhilarated us, but back on board, the hotel manager delivered even more thrilling news: a barbecue dinner on the helideck! Bundled in insulated parkas against the biting wind, we huddled together over sizzling food, the shared warmth sparking lively conversations. As the embers faded, sunlight suddenly spilled across the sea, bathing our faces in golden light, another day of Antarctic metamorphosis, where wilderness and camaraderie intertwined.



Day 9 – Thursday 07th August, Ymerbukta, Colesbukta

12:00 GPS Position: 78° 17.8' N / 013° 56.5' E

Wind: Var 3-4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +11°C

This morning began as several others have during this polar bear filled trip: with a change of plans. Today's change was not due to a polar bear sighting, however, but rather to strong winds making our original destination unsafe. We continued sailing to a bay called Ymerbukta, where we were immediately rewarded with beluga whales. A pod of at least six of the graceful white animals slowly made their way out of the bay as we waited for the guides to clear the landing site. It was a good start to the day.

Once ashore - we wandered freely within a perimeter set up by the guides. We made our way to a part of Ymerbreen that we could actually touch, not just see from a safe distance in a zodiac. The cold water dripped down the surface of the glacier in glittering rivulets, gathering at the ground into a small creek that poured silty sediments into the bay, turning the blue water brown. We could hear more water rushing down from higher up, but we could not see it; the area was quite hilly, with lots of blind dips and valleys.



As we hiked along the rocky hills, we kept our eyes open for fossils. They are quite numerous in this area, and we found shells, worm casings, and other sea life imprinted into stone. That

this entire area was once the floor of the ocean seemed astonishing, especially given how high up the hills we discovered fossils. How much life have these stones seen? How many climates? How long have they been out of water, then under it, then out again? While we pondered the span of eons, gorgeous constellations of lenticular clouds brought us back to the ephemeral, as they dazzled in the far sky. The air seemed textured by them, and every moment they were slightly different than the moment before. Spectacular.



After a short Zodiac ride back to the ship, we enjoyed our last buffet lunch of the trip. As usual, it was delicious. We're going to miss the variety of these lunches.

The afternoon saw us ashore once more, this time in Colesbukta, an abandoned Soviet coal transport station. It was here that coal was loaded onto ships to be carried back to the mainland, and there are many ruins of buildings, docks, coal chutes, bridges, etc. All are in extreme disrepair, so exploring inside any of the buildings was completely out of the question. It was heartening to see that someone was making good use of the ruins, however: dozens of Arctic terns had made their nests on and around the buildings, favoring one flat-roofed building in particular. A few fluffy chicks could be seen, their coloration already very close to that of their parents. The adults were still very watchful, more than ready to dive-bomb anyone foolish enough to stray too close to the nests. They were also very busy catching fish to feed to their

rapidly growing youngsters. Their calls were loud and frequent, and it was great fun watching them.



The long hikers finally had a chance to see what a long hike was all about. After a three-hour traverse across a meadow, up a steep ridge, around a high plateau where they got great views of reindeer, and finally down another steep ridge, they were feeling the day's events. But they all came down smiling, and (most) were glad they went. The medium hikers took a less ambitious route up a hill to find a path across a glacial moraine. When they finally found the path, it turned out to be much lower down, but some cool discoveries were made on the diversion, including a reindeer skeleton with a fully articulated spine. They explored around the ruins of the large coal processing plant, then headed up to the cemetery and a decent view of reindeer. Occasionally someone would inadvertently kick a rock and look down to see that it was actually a piece of coal. It was an odd reminder that coal, too, is a rock, albeit a flammable one.

After a long, wonderful day of hiking and exploring, we returned to the ship to get cleaned up for the Captain's farewell. Prosecco or orange juice in hand, we toasted the Captain, the ship's crew, the guides, and of course, our Expedition Leader, Adam. We were then treated to the

slide show of our trip created by guide Gabi. What a fantastic reminder this will be of some of the things we saw and did during these ten days. (So. Many. Bears!)

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 – Friday 08th August. Disembarkation, Longyearbyen

06:00 GPS Position: 78°15.9' N / 015°25' E

Wind: E 6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +11°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 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.

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: 1039 nautical miles

Most northern point sailed: 81°00.841 N, 015°12.'343 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: Rao, Adam, Mark, Allan
Front row: Jodi, Emely, Aitana, Gabi, Hazel, Anne

MV "Ortelius"

Oceanwide

30th July to 8th August, 2025

Location	Date
1. Longyearbyen	30/7 PM
2. Fjortende Julibukta	31/7 AM
3. Ny-Ålesund	31/7 PM
4. Texas Bar	1/8 AM
5. Monacobreen	1/8 PM
6. Sea Ice	2/8 PM
7. Alkefjellet	3/8 AM
8. Torellneset	3/8 PM
9. Bråsvellbreen	3/8 AM
10. Langeøya	4/8 AM
11. Sundneset	5/8 AM
12. Diskobukta	5/8 PM
13. Burgerbukta	6/8 AM
14. Hornbreen	6/8 PM
15. Ymerbukta	7/8 AM
16. Colesbukta	7/8 PM
17. Longyearbyen	8/8 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 OTL 09

BIRDS

English Name	Latin	30-Jul	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug
Red-throated diver 紅喉潛鳥	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		X			X		X		
Northern Fulmar 暴风鰩	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pink-footed Goose 粉腳雁	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>						X	X		X
Barnacle Goose 白颊黑雁	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X	X					X		X
Common Eider 欧绒鸭	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
King Eider 王绒鸭	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>									X
Long-tailed Duck 长尾鸭	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>							X		X
Rock Ptarmigan 岩雷鸟	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</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
Dunlin 黑腹滨鹬	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									X
Ruddy Turnstone 翻石鹬	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		X							
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	X
Great Skua 大贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>			X		X			X	
Glaucous Gull 北极鸥	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Great black-backed Gull 大黑背鸥	<i>Larus marinus</i>		X							
Kittiwake 三趾鸥	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ivory Gull 白鸥	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>			X				X	X	
Arctic Tern 北极燕鸥	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	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
Black Guillemot 白翅斑海鸱	<i>Cephus 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	
Puffin 海鹦	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	X	X						X	X
Snow Bunting 雪鹀	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X					X		X

MAMMALS

English Name	Latin	30-Jul	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug
Walrus 海象	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>					X	X			
Bearded seal 髯海豹	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			X	X	X		X	X	
Hooded seal 冠海豹	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>				X					
Common /Harbour seal 斑海豹	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	X	X						X	X
Minke Whale 小须鲸	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>		X	X		X				
Sei Whale 塞鲸	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	X								
Humpback Whale 座头鲸	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>					X				
Beluga 白鲸	<i>Dezhnevius leucas</i>	X								X
Polar Bear 北极熊	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>			X		X	X	X		
Arctic Fox 北极狐	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		X					X		
Spitsbergen Reindeer 驯鹿	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		X							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.

Gabi Kolodko – Expedition Guide



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.

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。

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.

Allan White - Expedition Guide



Allan was born and raised in the Falkland Islands. He's a fifth generation Islander, and a descendant of one of the original British colonists in 1840. His higher education was completed in England, after which he embarked on a military career.

He joined the British Army aged 17. After serving in West Germany for two years during the Cold War period, he completed deployments in Northern Ireland, Cyprus as a United Nations peace-keeper, and with British Forces South Atlantic Islands. He left the Army to settle back in the Falklands.

While working as a Port Agent, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of the small-ship expedition cruising concept. He encouraged Allan to become a Zodiac driver and go to sea for a year. Thirty years later, he's still at it. His voyages have taken him all over the world, with particular focus on the Polar regions. His travel experience ranges from 90° North to 78° South.

In the Falklands, Allan and his wife owned and operated their own tourist lodge for over a decade. More recently they managed a privately owned island, where they were the sole residents for almost 5 years, with thousands of albatrosses, penguins and seals for neighbours.

Allan is an experienced guide and Zodiac driver, with a keen interest in natural history and heroic age polar exploration. He lives in the Falklands capital Stanley, with his wife Jacqui.

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.

Anne-Mieke Theunissen – Doctor



Drs.Theunissen, Anne-Mieke (Anna), is a medical doctor from the Netherlands. She has a background in acute and chronic medical care and is currently a resident in anaesthesiology. She is enthusiastic about emergency medicine and pre-hospital care and has an interest in providing medical care in remote areas.

In her professional and personal life she embraces a challenge. She loves to be in the outdoors and to travel. Through her passions of rock climbing, hiking and mountaineering, she has seen the most beautiful places in the world and has had the chance to experience unique environments while connecting with different cultures. She is looking forward to seeing Antarctica and its wildlife.

As your doctor on this beautiful adventure, she wishes you safe travels and an extraordinary experience in the far south. Feel free to contact her with questions and to ask her for advice.

中文

安娜 (Theunissen, Anne-Mieke) 博士是来自荷兰的医学博士。她拥有急性和慢性医疗护理背景，目前是麻醉科住院医师。她热衷于急诊医学和院前护理，并对为偏远地区提供医疗服务感兴趣。

在职业和个人生活中，她勇于接受挑战。她喜欢户外活动和旅行。通过攀岩、徒步旅行和登山，她见识了世界上最美丽的地方，并有机会体验独特的环境，同时与不同的文化交流。她非常期待去南极洲看看，看看那里的野生动物。

作为您这次美丽探险的医生，她祝您一路平安，在遥远的南方获得非凡的体验。如有问题或建议，请随时联系她。



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 30th 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: 31st 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: 1st August 2025

Day 3 – Texas Bar & Monacobreen

0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!

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

0845 +/- 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.

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

1400 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.

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: 2nd August 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 Buffet dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 3rd August 2025

Day 5 – Alkefjellet & Torrelneset

- 0645 Wakeup-call – Good Morning!
- 0700-0800 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 0800 We hope to Disembarkation for an **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.
- 1200 -1300 Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4**.
- 1430 Disembarkation for **going ashore at Torellneset**.
We will 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 a short recap to hear 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: 4th Aug 2025

Day 6 – Langeøya and ship cruise afternoon - Plan B!

0715 Wakeup-call: Good Morning!

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

0845 +/- Disembarkation for **zodiac cruise of Langeøya (Long Island)**
We hope to offer you a zodiac cruise to see the polar bears spotted last night. Other wildlife we could see includes walrus, seals and seabirds.
Please dress warmly; it is mandatory to wear waterproofs.

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

This afternoon we will remain on board the ship, searching for wildlife, as we continue our journey around Spitsbergen, providing the following informative lectures en route:

1400 Emily welcomes you to the bar for her thought-provoking lecture entitled '**Our Noisy Oceans**' – find out how ocean noise affects marine mammals and gain insight into the important role of a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO).

1600 Please join Allan in the bar for his fascinating lecture about **Fridtjof Nansen's polar drift expedition**

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: 5th August 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: 6th August 2025

Day 8 – Burgerbukta & onboard afternoon

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.**

Due to exceptionally high winds this afternoon we are unable to operate off the ship. Therefore, we will remain on board, looking out for wildlife, and offering the following lecture:

1430 Jodi welcomes you to the bar for her lecture about the **History of Whaling in Svalbard.**

1600 Disembarkation for **zodiac cruise in Hornsund.**
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



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 7th August 2025

Day 9: Alkhornet & Colesbukta

07:15 Wake-up call: Good morning!

07:30-08:30 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

08:45+/- Disembarkation to **go ashore at Alkhornet**. 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.

**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.**

14:00 Disembarkation for **going ashore at Colesbukta ('Coal Bay')**. For our final landing of the trip we hope to go ashore at this site, which is the location of an abandoned coal mining settlement. Alongside the historical interest, Colesbukta also boasts rich plant life and Svalbard reindeer are often present feeding there.

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: 8th August 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 **SK4491** – **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 straight to the airport.

09:00

Disembarkation for guests on flight **SK4493** – **RED** 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 **11:45** 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.