Scoresby Sund
Including Aurora Borealis, Long Hikes and Diving

Iceland - Greenland - Iceland

30th August 2025 – 8th September 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 **without needing to 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 Per Andersson

[Sweden]

and his international crew of 58

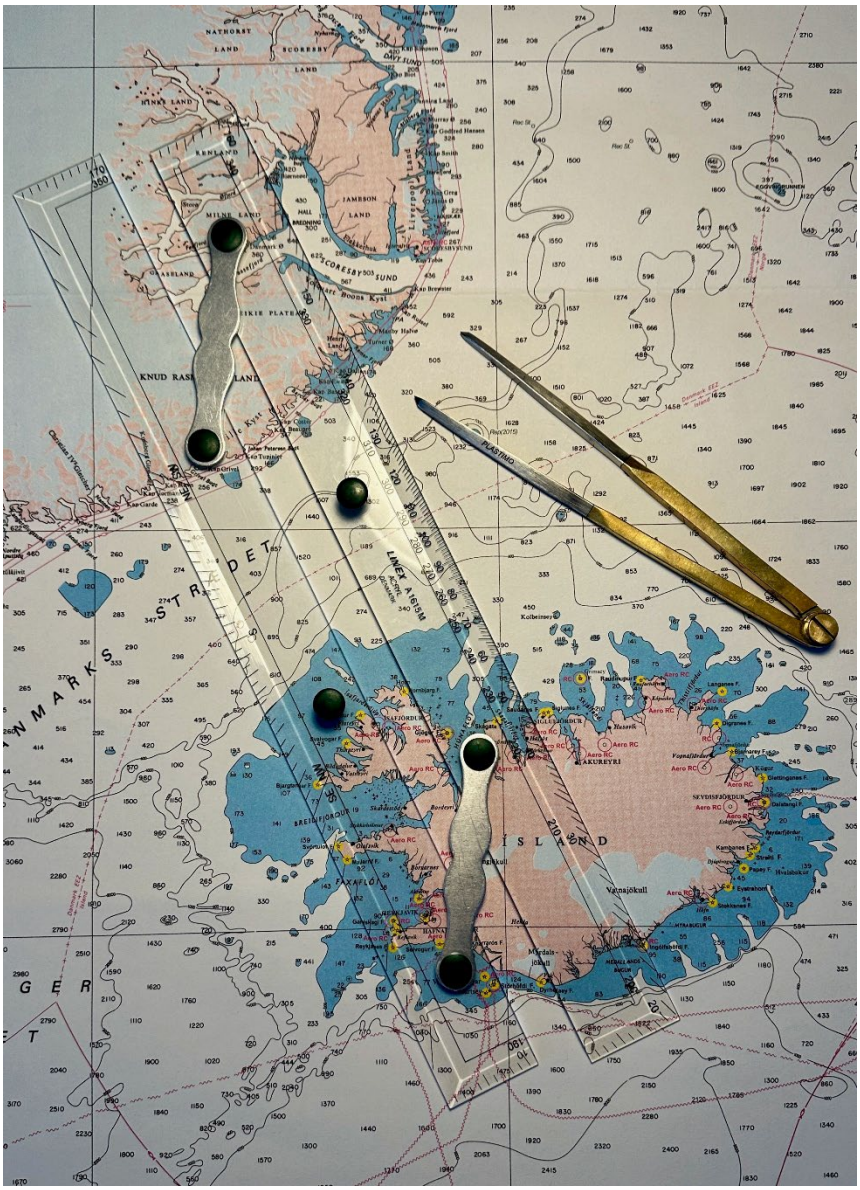
Chief Officer:	**Sjoerd Van Hoek**	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	**Anar Barabiev**	[Ukraine]
Third Officer:	**Ian Vincent**	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	**Alexsander Bondarev**	[Lithuania]
Hotel Manager:	**Ingrid van de Loo**	[The Netherlands]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	**Charlot Laumen**	[The Netherlands]
Head Chef:	**Heinz Hacker**	[Ukraine]
Expedition Leader	**Claudio Ghiglione**	[Italy]
Assistant Expedition Leader	**Chloe Marechal**	[France]
Dive Team Leader	**Tanya Bayer**	[Germany]
Dive Guide	**Clara Iachetti**	[Argentina]
Dive Guide	**Gonzalo Sabattini**	[Argentina]
Dive Guide	**Luce Moussiere**	[France]
Expedition Guide	**Allan White**	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide	**Beth Hitchcock**	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	**Jess Owen**	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	**Simon Davies**	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	**Karoline Baelum**	[Denmark]
Expedition Guide	**Georgina Strange**	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide	**Brian Veltrop**	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	**Rao Xinpeng**	[China]
Ship's Doctor	**Veronique Verhoeven**	[The Netherlands]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Saturday 30th August 2025. Akureyri, Iceland. Embarkation Day

0800 GPS Position: 65°40.01'N / 018°05.58'W

Wind: West 1 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +10.8°C



After spending some days exploring Akureyri, we made our way to the pier where the m/v *Ortelius,* our new home for the next nine days, was waiting for us. We were welcomed on board by the Expedition Team and the Hotel department and were shown to our cabins. Here we found our luggage and began to sort it and find homes for all our gear. We then had to complete a mandatory safety drill where we were shown the lifeboats and what to do in an emergency.

After this we could relax for a little while before we were invited to the lounge for welcome cocktails. Here we met Captain Per, and we toasted to the voyage. Our Hotel Manager Ingrid introduced us to the ship and Expedition Leader Claudio gave us a talk about what to expect from our journey together. We then were introduced to the expedition team before heading to the restaurant for a buffet meal. Many of us were tired from our busy day and began heading to bed, whilst others gathered to chat in the lounge or head outside to watch the amazing scenery of Eyjafjörður pass by as we sailed away from Akureyri and neared the Arctic circle.

Day 2 – Sunday 31st August, Denmark Strait, Sea Day

09:00 GPS Position: 68°52.70'N / 020°44.20´W

Wind: NE6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: 4.9°C

Late last night Ortelius crossed the Arctic Circle which cuts through the northern end of Grimsey, a small island off the north coast of Iceland which lay out off our starboard side. Overnight we pushed on towards Greenland, and just after 07:00 this morning we entered the Greenland Maritime Zone. There was a moderate sea state which rocked *Ortelius* from the very early hours, reminding us that our adventure was well and truly under way.

First order of the day was a hearty breakfast, which was followed by a mandatory gathering in the bar for a round of very important briefings. Before they got under way, we were introduced to the Expedition Team, an international mix of talented individuals who would guide, educate and keep us safe throughout the voyage. Then Expedition Leader Claudio got down to the serious business of delivering three crucial briefings on Arctic visitor guidelines, Zodiac operations and Polar Bear safety.

The remainder of the morning was a leisurely affair, spent up on the bridge or on the outer decks, enjoying the ocean and distant views of the east Greenland mountains. Several seabirds graced us with their presence. Northern fulmars, kittiwakes and gannets can be considered regulars in this region and to be expected. But there were some very rare avian

treats in the form of greater and sooty shearwaters, more at home deep in the South Atlantic. These ocean nomads will soon have to head south to their far away breeding grounds. The scuba divers used the remainder of the morning to unpack and set up their gear in the helicopter hangar, assisted by the ever-helpful dive team.

After a sumptuous buffet lunch served up by the always amazing hotel department, the divers and long hikers were called to meetings with their guides and leaders to go over essential information ahead of these activities commencing. The divers met with team leader Tanja and dive guides Clara, Gonzalo and Luce, while the hikers met with hiking guides Beth and Brian. Meanwhile, *Ortelius* closed in on the Greenland coast as the spectacular mountains loomed larger on the port side.

As the afternoon wore on, a few enthusiastic observers on the bridge watched the GPS count down to 70 degrees north. It was our first exciting milestone, gained less than 24 hours after boarding the ship. Crossing this latitude placed us within 1200 nautical miles of the North Pole. Already in sight ahead of the ship was the imposing rocky headland of Cape Brewster, which is the southern side of the entrance to

Scoresby Sund. Mighty icebergs were scattered all around, as the Arctic sun shone down on an unforgettable scene. What a magnificent welcome to Greenland!

As we rounded Cape Brewster, the time came to collect our muck boots, which would keep our feet warm and dry when going out on excursions. Deck by deck we were called to the

Lecture Room on Deck 3 to try the boots on for size and get acquainted with our new best friends. Some freshly baked treats had been delivered to the bar, and many enjoyed a spot of afternoon tea with a magnificent view out of the windows.

The evening briefing and recap took place as *Ortelius* sailed deeper into Scoresby Sund, with spectacular icebergs in all directions. Some were colossal towers of ice that defied belief! The conditions got better as the wind dropped away, and the evening wore on. The announcement for dinner brought guests in from the outer decks where they were reluctant to leave the fantastic scenery. Later, many returned to the open air to enjoy the softening evening light as the sun fell slowly to the horizon. At around 23:00 *Ortelius* came to a stop in the area where exciting experiences awaited us the next day.

Day 3 – Monday 1st September, Vikingebugt and Terrassevig

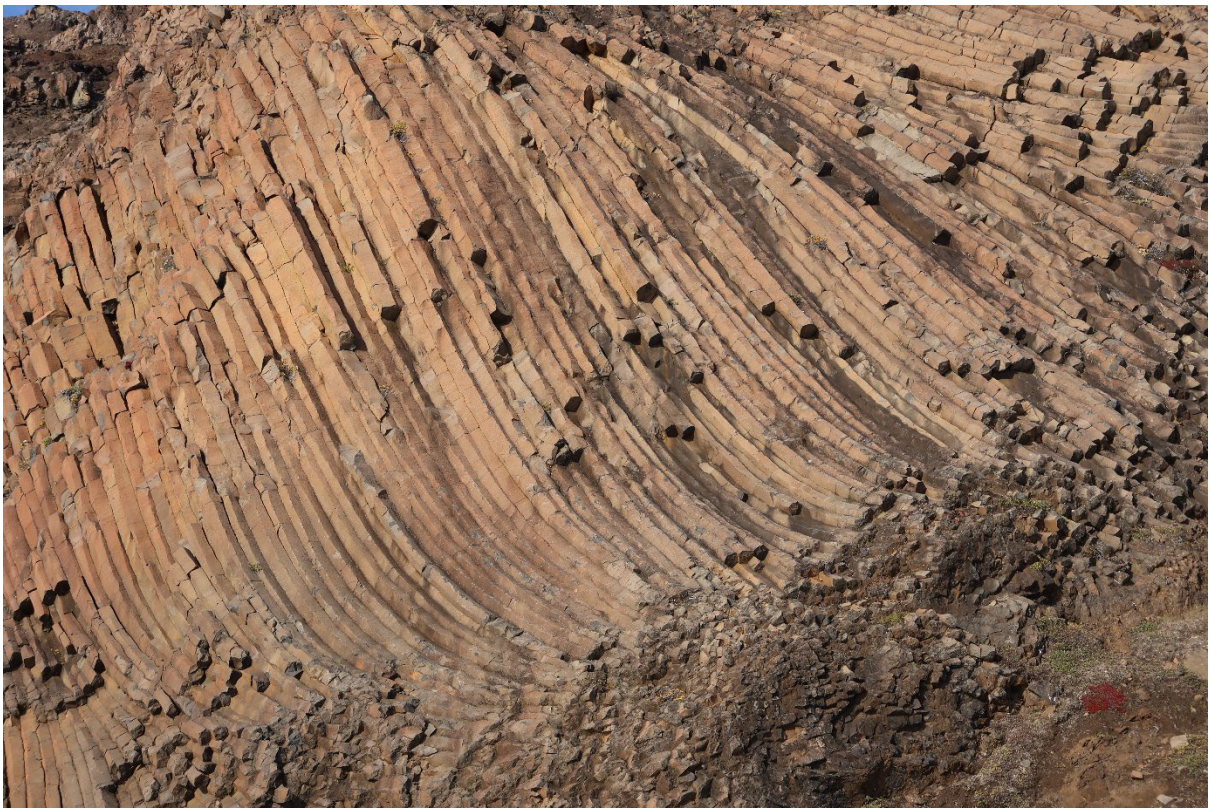
08:00 GPS Position: 70°21.94´N / 025°16.11´W

Wind: Var 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partial cloud • Air Temp: +5.5°C

After a day at sea, we were eager to get outside to experience the landscape and step foot on Greenland. Our first activity of the day was a Zodiac cruise in Vikingebugt. This is a favorite spot amongst the guides as there is so much to see here.

Our first stop on the cruise was to admire the spectacular rock formations along the edge of the fjord. Columnar basalt rocks towered above us in unreal looking hexagonal shapes, a result of lava cooling slowly underground. Some boats even spotted some little snow buntings flying and landing around the formations like butterflies. We also saw how there were a surprising number of plant species, such as willow and bearberry, that were able to grow amongst the rock columns with hardly any soil present. We spent some time photographing and enjoying geology before moving further into the fjord.

The brash ice started to become thicker and harder to drive through, creating a winter wonderland like feeling around us. We learnt about how the icebergs and the brash ice here had come from the glacier, where they had once fallen in layers of snow before being squeezed and pushed into ice. The view of the glacier was distant by beautiful. The captain maneuvered the ship around the ice to come and pick us up inside the fjord.



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During and after lunch we enjoyed the very scenic transit between Vikingebugt and our afternoon landing site Terrassevig. We landed on a rocky beach to the left of an impressive, folded glacier named Foldegletsjer, which had a lot of stripes running down it caused by the glacier moraines.

We set off in three hiking groups. Beth and Chloe took a group up the rocky ridge and headed towards the glacier. It was difficult terrain to walk on, and the weather was unexpectedly hot, so lots of layer shedding had to be done. Georgina, Karoline, Jess, and Rao took another group towards a spectacular waterfall. We took lots of stops on route to photograph the fireweed which was in flower, Greenland's national flower, and a beautiful flash of pink in the mostly rocky and monochrome landscape. Claudio and Brian took the leisurely group along the shoreline where they could see ringed plovers and enjoy the amazing waterfall from a lower level. The water was rushing down the vertical drop, it was melt-water from higher up in the valley and it created a very wild and rugged atmosphere.

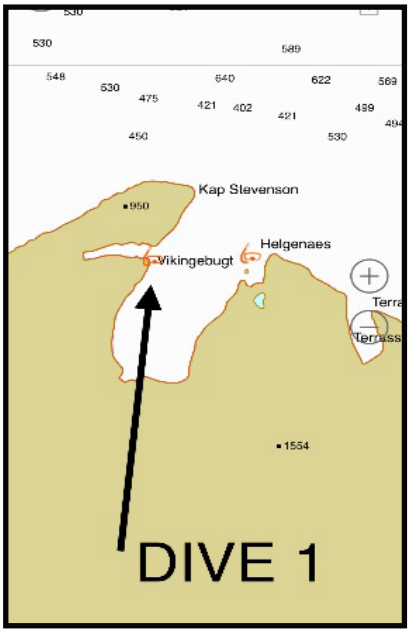
After our walks we headed back to the ship. Some of us were feeling quite achy in our legs after scrambling over the rocks. Once back on-board Claudio gave us the plans for tomorrow and we enjoyed the scenery before and after dinner.

Dive 1 entry – Morning at Vikingebugt

70° 21.819' N / 025° 16.507'W

Water Temp: 0 – 5 °C

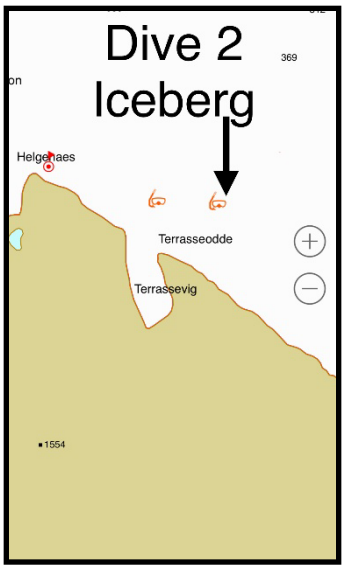
This dive is designed to be a check dive, so every diver could check out the weights and equipment. Visibility on the surface was max. 2m, but below 15m it opened and the divers reported about 7m of visibility. After adjusting their weights, they went on for a dive. A lot of nice creatures were seen. Big sea stars, sea fans, different shrimps. Orange anemones sat on the sand and on the kelp some crabs were found. Happy we returned to the ship.



Dive 2 entry – Afternoon at Terrassevig

70°21.176´N / 024°46.692`W

Water Temp: 0 – 2 °C



During Lunch the ship moved into Terrasevig, a deep fjord with a glacier at its end. The glacier was quite ‘dirty’ and so was the water. A lot of waterfalls with meltwater were coming down the rocks. But with our Zodiacs we drove back to the wide entrance, called Terrasseodden and the water became clearer. There were many big icebergs around that area, but we also found a nice dome-shaped one. This iceberg was very stable and not too high. It was perfect for us to dive on. Before the dive you could already see the very clear water. After the divers went in, we could see them put to 15m depth underwater. Underwater the iceberg was huge - remember 90% are underwater! This iceberg also had a story. All the scallop patterns and canyons in the ice, showed the parts that have already been underwater. The blue stripes of transparent ice went on underwater. Around the iceberg jellyfish, a big lion’s mane jellyfish and sea angels were floating along. Visibility and the light were stunning! What a fantastic dive! After the dive some divers took the chance to go ashore and had a little walk.

Day 4 – Tuesday 2nd September, Bjørneøer (Bear Islands)

09:00 GPS Position: 71°00.66´N / 025°32.83'W

Wind: Var 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air Temp: +7.3°C

Waking up this morning, we were amongst eerie fog with some clearing patches to the south. The surroundings were nothing short of spectacular — icebergs drifting silently around us, majestic mountains appearing momentary, and the anticipation of what lay behind.

Due to the fog we relocated to the south side of Bear Islands where the cloud level was rising, and the fog was beginning to break up revealing the impressive large ice bergs. After a hearty breakfast, the expedition team set out to scout the south side of Pooqattaq, the western most island of Bear Islands. To everyone's amazement, they encountered a polar bear! We know it is always a possibility, but it feels like an often dreamt of moment for many! As Claudio had warned us, we were now rapidly moving from Plan A to Plan B and now to Plan C as we cannot land in the area where the polar bear is due to the potential risk of these apex predators to us. Instead, we headed out on a zodiac cruise amongst the impressive large ice bergs that get trapped in the shallows around these islands. Many also caught a glimpse of the bear making this an all-round an unforgettable experience. Afterwards, we returned to the ship for a well-deserved lunch.

Meanwhile, the “all day hikers” continued their journey in the Zodiacs to find an island of their own further north and had their lunch ashore. By this time the fog had cleared from the lower hills and only the high mountains of Øfjord were still in the clouds. As a group of 19, they set out to explore Taseertit in the Bear Islands. The scenery was stunning as wispy clouds passed between the high peaks. The crisp weather was perfect for hiking in as they scoured the landscape in search of wildlife, animal droppings and plants. Even with the relatively low density of wildlife in this area they were lucky enough to spot musk oxen, Arctic hare, ptarmigans and an elusive Arctic fox. As if this wasn’t enough, during a short break at the summit, Sarah spotted a snowy owl! What a rare and magical sight! Simon was sufficiently jealous.

After lunch, we prepared the Zodiacs to go ashore where we split into short, medium, and

long hikers. We explored the island walking the soft mossy tundra, hopping between glacially smoothed rocks and squelched through boggy patterned ground. Most of the groups managed to catch a glimpse of a fox and the abundant musk oxen, many of which had young.

Each group returned with glowing faces, having shared in the beauty of this extraordinary place. The weather could not have been better as the atmospheric clouds cleared to blue sky, sunshine warming our faces, and the Bear Islands with their gleaming icebergs as the backdrop.

As the day came to an end, we returned on board, where another delicious dinner awaited us. The evening was spent quietly cruising through the still waters, surrounded by magnificent landscapes and bathed in golden light — the perfect ending to an unforgettable day.

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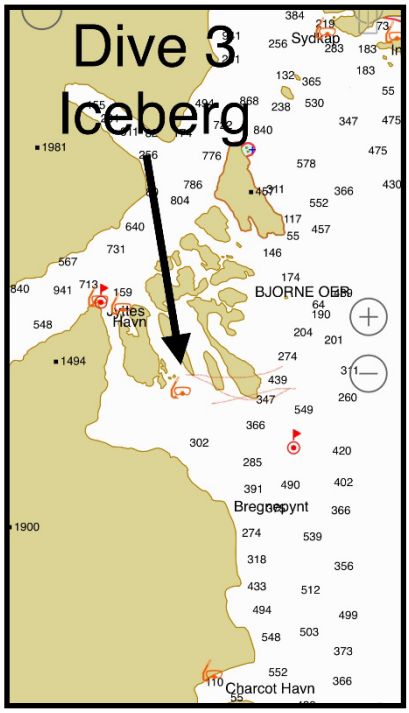
Dive 3 entry – Morning at Bjørneøer

71° 00.764’ N / 025° 29.920’W

Water Temp: 0 – 9 °C

After plans changed in the morning, we decided to look for an iceberg a little bit further away from the islands. But before the expedition leader allowed us to have a look at the polar bear, which they had spotted on one of the islands. We found a nice dome-shaped iceberg south of the Bjørneøer. The divers went in and were fascinated by the steep ice walls. 90% of the iceberg is under water and has many shapes and patterns. On one side the typical scallops, caused by the bubbles from the bottom of the berg. When the ice is melting, the bubbles break free and get pushed around the icy surface by currents. They carve the typical patterns named as scallops and canyons. Around the iceberg were hundreds of Ctenophores in the water column and also sea butterflies and a lion mane jellyfish. We enjoyed the beautiful sunshine during a little Zodiac cruise among the icebergs on the way back to the ship.



Dive 4 entry – Afternoon at Jyttes Havn, Bjørneøer

71° 05.029’ N / 025° 41.867’W

Water Temp: -1 – 5 °C

After the spectacular navigation through the narrow channel east of Milne Land, the ship anchored on the east side of jetties Havn. Our dive site was at the northern tip of Milne Land. A nearly vertical wall with lots of anemones and sea stars in different colors. Sea urchins, tunicates, feather stars and brittle stars were all over the place. In the kelp we found snails, nudibranchs, copepods and a lot of different shrimps. The visibility was great, and all divers returned with a happy smile on their face. After the dive, 4 divers decided to go for a little hike ashore and had a nice encounter with 2 Arctic hares and a beautiful view over a fjord with towering icebergs. Perfect to have a little moment of Arctic silence!

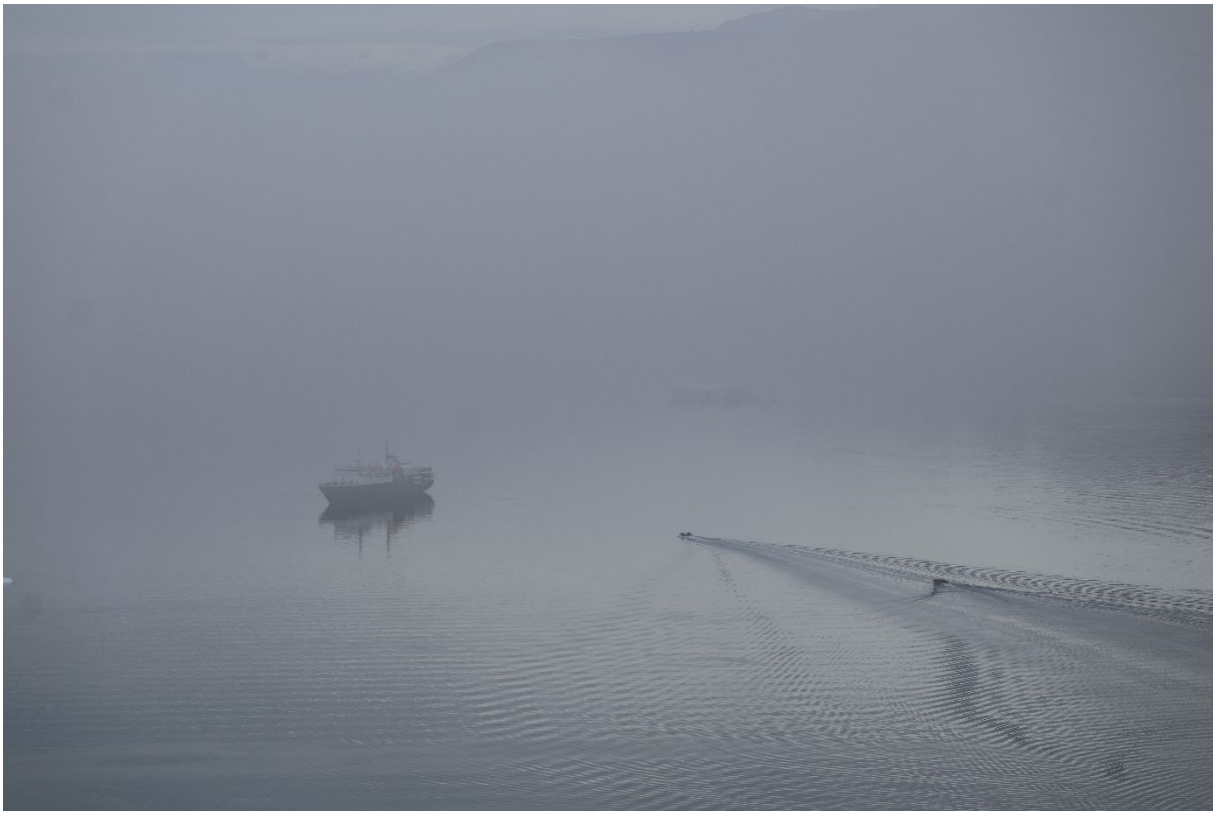
UW Pictures Marcin Sobolewski

Day 5 – Wednesday 3rd September, Harefjord and Rypefjord

08:00 GPS Position: 70°55.40N / 0’27°46.11’W

Wind: Var 1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +6.1°C

Today aboard *Ortelius,* we experienced an unforgettable and eventful day exploring the majestic landscapes of Greenland's Scoresby Sund. Our planned destinations were Harefjord in the morning and Rypefjord in the afternoon, with various activities organized for guests, including long hikes, diving, and tundra walks.



The day began with promise. As we approached Harefjord, the weather was calm, bright, and overcast, with minimal wind — ideal conditions for our scheduled excursions. The plan was for the long hikers to traverse overland towards Rypefjord, while the divers would explore beneath the surface, and the remainder of the group would enjoy short hikes across the Arctic tundra. However, just as final preparations were underway, a dense band of fog rolled in, swiftly reducing visibility and shrouding the area designated for hiking.

Due to the crucial need for polar bear safety in these remote regions, expedition staff made the prudent decision to cancel the planned landings and instead transform the morning into a scenic Zodiac cruise. The divers proceeded with their dive around strikingly sculpted icebergs,

while the rest of the group set out along the coastline aboard Zodiacs. This change in plans proved to be a rewarding alternative, as we were treated with wonderful wildlife sightings. Musk oxen were spotted roaming the rugged terrain, and birdwatchers were pleased to observe glaucous gulls, eiders, and long-tailed ducks as we maneuvered gracefully between towering icebergs.

As the morning progressed, the fog gradually lifted, restoring visibility across the fjord. Seizing the opportunity, the long hikers set off on their ambitious trek across the tundra toward Rypefjord, where they were scheduled to rejoin the vessel in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, *Ortelius* repositioned to Rypefjord. The expedition team landed first to conduct a routine scout for polar bears before allowing guests ashore. Just as we were nearing the go-ahead, two staff members scouting ahead in Zodiacs reported a brief sighting of a polar bear moving inland, approximately two kilometres from the intended landing site. Given the uncertainty of the bear's exact location and the need for strict safety protocols, the landing was

cancelled. Instead, guests were treated to a second zodiac cruise — this time in the still, mirror-like waters deep inside the fjord system.

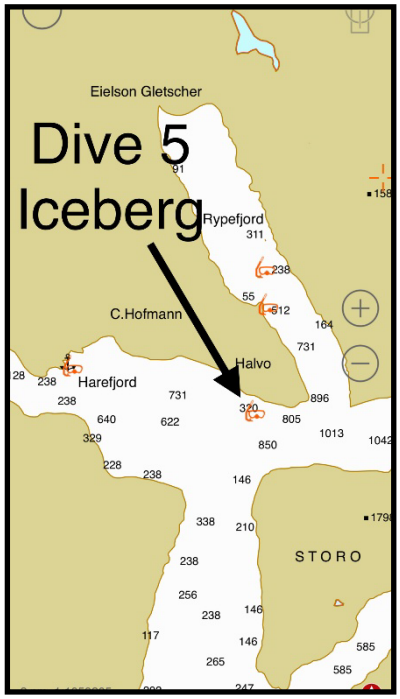
Meanwhile, the long hikers were still en-route across the tundra — and now with a known polar bear in the vicinity. With urgency and calm coordination, the hikers made their way swiftly to a safe pickup point. Thankfully, the bear was not seen again, and all guests were brought back safely to the ship.

While plans had to be adapted throughout the day, the spirit of adventure prevailed. Guests returned aboard with memorable experiences, stunning photographs, and a thrilling story of wildlife and wilderness to share — the kind of day that defines Arctic exploration.

Dive 5 entry – Morning at Harefjord Icebergs

70° 54.629’ N / 027° 42.873’W

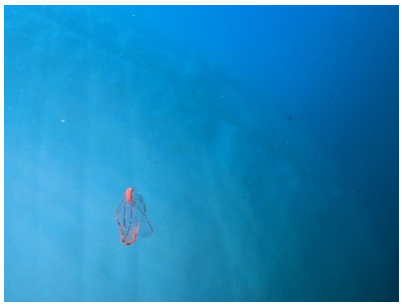
Water Temp: 0 – 6 °C

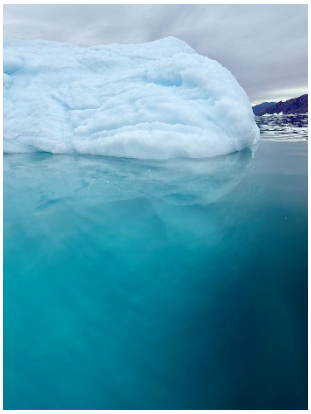


Next, we sailed into Harefjord which was filled with low clouds and fog in the distance. Our plan was to dive on a nice piece of ice again. So, we scouted towards the entrance of the fjord. The first iceberg had many balconies around the edges, and a rock was on one side. It is not a good idea to dive on those rocky bergs because the rock can slide and fall into the water.

The second one was not stable, so we carried along to find a third one seemed perfect. The divers went into the water, and we could see them down to 10m. The visibility was great. The berg had a beautiful structure underwater. The patterns of scallops and canyons. In the water around the iceberg, we saw again a lot of ctenophores, sea butterflies and sea angels. 2 divers were still under water when the iceberg

began to roll. The divers were called back by the revving of the engine and made a safe ascent. After towing them about 50m away from the iceberg, they jumped happily in the Zodiac. Then we went for a short Zodiac Cruise around 2 very special icebergs. One was white at the base part and totally covered with brown rock debris on the top. There was also a window in this berg. The other one was blue and transparent and looked like art!





Day 6 – Thursday 4th September, Sorte Ø and ØFjord

09:00 GPS Position: 70°41.26'N / 027°44.24W

Wind: Var 1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +5°C

This morning, we woke up to find clouds and mist with an even drizzle of rain dampening the landscape, and us! But it certainly did not dampen our spirits nor our plan to go ashore. Today we were landing at Sorte Ø, an island deep in Scoresby Sund where blocks of ice fill the bay often inhibiting us from navigating here. We were not doing any all-day hikes today, so all of us landed and split into three walking groups.

The long hikers set off up the hill with Beth, Chloe, and Rao. They gained quite a lot of height over the three hours. It was rainy but warm, making us all strip our layers off at each viewpoint on the accent. On the way back down, the fog rolled in underneath them, creating an eerie atmosphere, and they had views of the glacier Rolige Brae.

The medium hikers went with Karoline and Simon. They also gained some height to enjoy the views of icebergs around them. Despite the wet weather, we took many pictures, as the tiny autumnal trees and vegetation on the land were displaying vibrant reds, yellows, oranges, and greens, which created a beautiful contrast against the icy blue seascape and icebergs.

The leisurely group set off with Claudio, Georgina, Jess, and Allan. We made our way along the shore before splitting into two groups again. The faster of the leisurely groups set off with Claudio and Jess on what ended up being quite an adventurous climb up to some excellent viewpoints. The other leisurely groups stayed lower with Georgina and Allan and enjoyed photographing the plants. Both groups reunited on the beach and were treated to an encounter with a very curious raven.

As all the groups returned feeling sweaty, we had a unique opportunity to cool off with a polar plunge! Many brave souls striped to their swimwear and ran, tiptoed, and splashed their way into the cold water. The screams could be heard on the hill tops, but every plunger returned smiling and laughing.

We returned to the ship for a hot shower and a well-earned lunch. In the afternoon we enjoyed a very scenic ships cruise through the fjords. The red mountains of Rødepynten began to glow as the sun broke through the clouds, bringing out the incredible pinnacles in the unusual landscape. Further along the steep mountains of Øfjord were capturing our attention and the icebergs were truly stunning showing all shades of blue. We appreciated being able to glide

slowly through them in the comfort of Ortelius. The hotel department enhances our cruise with a treat on the open decks. They made us some special hot chocolate with a dash of rum to keep us warm. At 4pm, we settled down in the bar to listen to Allan's talk about Nansen and his Arctic drift expedition. We were captivated by this story of survival and were hanging on Allan's every word.

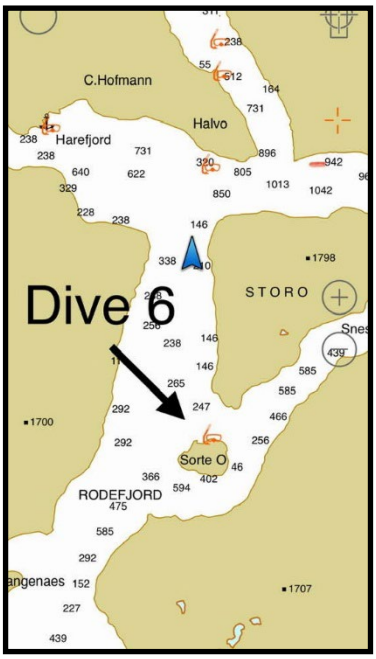
After lots of long hikes (and long leisurely hikes) we were quite grateful to have an afternoon of rest on the ship. We gathered in the evening to hear the plans for tomorrow. Jess gave us a short talk about lichen and Karoline amazed us with stories of her time living in Svalbard and her close encounters with bears.

The day was finished off on a high with a BBQ on the helicopter deck, nestled beneath the high striped mountains of Øfjord.

Dive 6 entry – Morning at Sorte Ø

70° 41.304’ N / 027° 42.639’W

Water Temp: 1 – 7 °C



This morning, we arrived at Sorte Ø. A black Island in the inner Rødefjord. This island has slopes on land and under water on the western side and steep cliffs and walls underwater on the northern side where we headed first. Our ship was anchored at the northwestern edge of the island. We first went around the corner to the west side, because we got the information that 2 Musk Oxen were there. We found them between rocks quite close to the waterline.

We checked the depth at different points and found out, that this side has a very gentle slope. But we wanted to look for a wall. So, we went back to the northern side of the island. Steep cliffs came out of the water and at this spot we found also a nice wall underwater. This wall was beautiful. Covered with anemones, sea stars, sponges, kelp and other algae. Between all this we could see shrimps, Copepods, nudibranchs and other invertebrates living among the submarine landscape. Visibility was great and at the safety stop the divers recognized a thermocline.

After the dive we got back to the ship and the divers changed clothes. The plan was to go ashore and do the Polar Plunge. Of course, without a dry suit!

UW Pictures: Adrian Juriwiez

Day 7 – Friday 5th September, Sydkap and Immikkeertikajik

08:00 GPS Position: 71°17.42’ N / 025°00.96’ W

Wind: SSW 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +6°C

After sailing through Ø Fjord the previous night aboard MV Ortelius, we have finally arrived at today's destination, Sydkap, where we plan to conduct a full-day landing activity around the area. The diving team and the full-day hiking group set off immediately after the expedition's scouting, while the landing team disembarked from the Zodiac near a small bay with two summer cabins from local hunters.

After briefly exploring the area around the two huts near the landing site, we began our hiking activities. The weather was improving, and the long-distance group crossed the mountainside to reach a lakeside on the opposite slope. The mid-distance group climbed halfway up the mountain. The short-distance group also ascended a small hill on the fjord side to enjoy sweeping views of colossal ice bergs drifting in Hall Bredning.

On the seaward side, numerous large icebergs were either stranded or drifting with the current around the small islands to the south. Meanwhile, the mountainsides were covered in lush tundra vegetation providing a beautiful color contrast. Several Arctic hares darted in and out of the cliffs and rock crevices at mid-mountain elevations. Everyone enjoyed their sweating hike and a moment of silence in the scenery. We returned to the landing site with lovely smiles.

Our afternoon landing was on the small island to the south of Sydkap named Immikkeertigajik. Here, we discovered remarkably intact musk oxen remains. The remains found here suggest a long-term presence of these Arctic herbivores, whose bones can endure for decades in the cold climate. We were beginning to become accustomed to turning our heads to find another

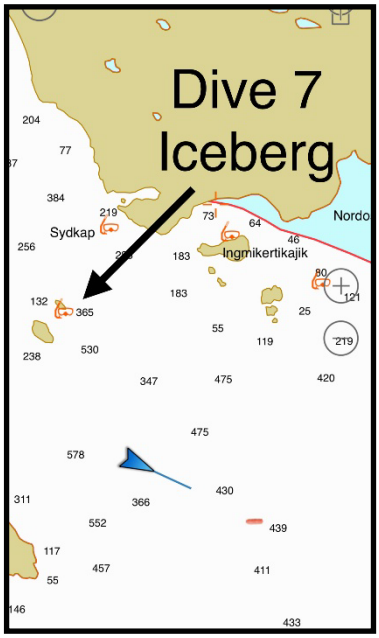
Arctic hares in this breathtaking scenery. An Arctic fox darted around the tundra too, dodging our field of vision as we all meandered the craggy shore. The fox was alternately chasing the hares and sniffing at animal bones before vanishing with surprising agility. It was a truly magnificent day.

We all returned and shared stores of out sightings from ancient Thule summer camping sites to unforgettable wildlife. The long hikers even claimed they had seen a peregrine falcon, although without a photo we were skeptical of taking their word for it! Needless to say, there were turning out to be some fantastic sightings on this trip.

Dive 7 entry – Morning at Sydkap

71° 15.221’ N / 025° 12.732’W

Water Temp: 0 – 6 °C



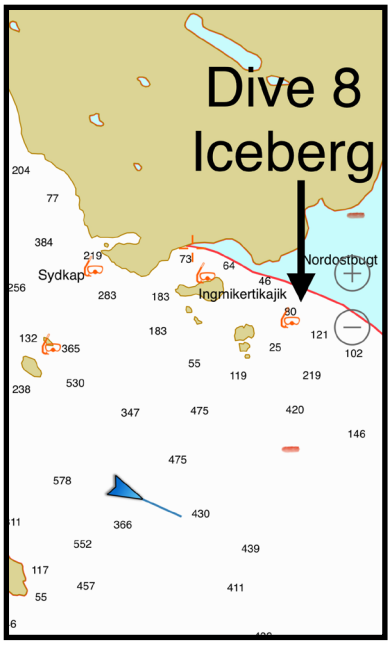
This morning, we arrived at Sydkap where we stayed all day with the ship. The divers decided to dive again on an iceberg. We saw a really nice dome-shaped berg in the far distance between to small rocky islands. It took us nearly 20 minutes to get there, but it was worth it. What a great iceberg!

When we arrived, we already saw beautiful blue and transparent stripes in the ice and all the different patterns, like scallops, rips and canyons. The visibility was great and for all of the divers this was one of the best iceberg dives ever. Besides the structure and color of the iceberg, we also found ctenophores and shrimps all around. After the dives we went around some fantastic icebergs. There was also one which was perfect for our group selfie. We also saw a big arch with a light blue color and more really big blocks of ice!

Dive 8 entry – Afternoon at Ingmikertikajik on Iceberg

71° 15.995’ N / 025° 12.280’W

Water Temp: 0 – 7 °C



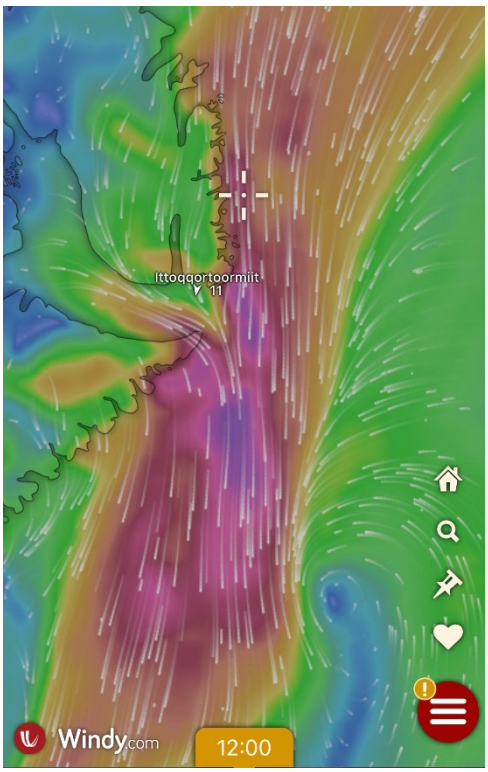
8 divers were ready for the last dive. And guess what, they wanted to dive on an iceberg! This time we searched east of *Ortelius.* It took some time to find a suitable iceberg. We found a very flat and long piece of ice with lots of small pieces of ice on top. On one side was a slope with like snowballs made of ice. We decided to take the other side for diving. The visibility did not look very good, and it wasn’t. The divers tried to go deeper, to find better visibility. It improved a bit and the divers still enjoyed their dive. After the dive we all went on the iceberg and played around. It was very slippery but great fun! On the way back we drove close to the landing site shoreline and found 2 groups of musk ox. There was also a small settlement of a couple of houses, used by hunters of the nearby settlement of Ittoqqortoormiit.

When we returned to the ship, we cleaned all gear and hanged it in the helicopter hanger. Now it can dry and get packed the next day, ready for your next dive adventure.

Day 8 – Saturday 6th September, Ittoqqortoormiit and Denmark Strait

09:00 GPS Position : 70°27.40’ N / 022°02.10’ W

Wind: NNE 7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Raining • Air Temperature: +3°C



This morning, we woke up to our last day in Greenland. Early in the morning we arrived at Ittoqqortoormiit, the only permanent settlement on the east coast and home to around three hundred and fifty people.

We could see the colorful wooden houses rising up the slopes from the shoreline and we could see the church, the weather station, and some sleds. We were very intrigued to visit this tiny settlement to see how people live in this beautiful but harsh landscape. However, the weather had other ideas for us. The wind was gusting up to forty-five knots and the swell at the shore and the gangway was far too high to be able to carry out safe operations. Therefore, Claudio and the team made the difficult decision to cancel the landing at Ittoqqortoormiit. We stayed there for a couple of hours to assess the conditions, but the weather got worse, most likely due to the storm that was just outside of Scoresby Sund.

Before lunch, Claudio gave us a lecture about his work in West Greenland. We then stayed inside the fjord to enjoy lunch before heading out into the rough weather. We stowed our belongings safely away and took our seasickness medication. Claudio announced on the PA system that it was time to snuggle down in our cabins or in the bar with a good book as we were about to sail into five-to-six-meter waves. There was a lot of rolling and movement, but the *Ortelius* and the bridge team did a great job of steering us through the waves. Those of us who did not suffer from sickness where able to watch the storm from the bridge. The huge waves and spray were mesmerizing, and we could see seabirds, like fulmars, soaring in the wind, loving the uplift created by these big waves.

We gathered for the final one of our normal recaps where Beth gave us some more information about the remains of the Thule peoples culture that we found on all day hike the previous day. Jess also answered some of our questions by telling us about the insect life here in Greenland. She then gave us a mini sound quiz where we listened to sounds made by Arctic animals, and we had to guess which ones they were.

We had a buffet dinner as that was the safest option given the swell. We just managed to stay in our seats and enjoy a lovely meal. After dinner Claudio arranged for us to have a movie night in the bar. We watched an episode of Oceans, a new BBC Natural History series, which

gave an amazing insight into the current overfishing and destructive trawling practices that are harming our seas. It also showed examples of protected marine areas where the wildlife had bounced back to recover after some years of protection. The galley even arranged for us to have popcorn.

Day 9 – Sunday 7th September, North Iceland and Eyjafjörður

08:00 GPS Position: 66°54.50´N / 018°19.50´W

Wind: NNW 3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +5.2°C

The *Ortelius* was a quiets ship this morning as many enjoyed their cozy bunks before wrapping up in layers to investigate the outside world. Breakfast was served in the dining room at 08:00 giving us a leisurely start to the day.

Before the end of breakfast, a white wagtail was spotted from the bridge fluttering around the anchor winch. As they are land birds, it was exciting to see one of these at sea. We also could see our first glimpse of land as Grimsey Island appeared out of the mist. An important island in Icelandic society as it means settled Icelandic land enters into the Arctic Circle.

The dive team answered many of our questions about what they had really been up to this whole trip. We were all very interested to see what their trip involved which was somewhat different from our, about surface, experiences of Greenland! The animal life was different from what many had imagined. Seeing the ice from below the surface gave a totally different perspective and helped us understand how the channels form where the air bubbles rise up to the water surface, scouring out vertical lines.

Later, in the morning Chloe delivered her long-promised lecture on Plankton. She enthusiastically delivered information and stories about this lesser know yet abundant and instrumental part of the ecosystem! What an incredible insight into the world below the ocean surface.

It was time to dash outside as there was a call from the bridge that dolphins had been spotted. In this vast ocean there is much to see for the patient soles who endure the drizzle and spend time on the decks.

After a delicious lunch many layered up to head to the outer decks again. On the foredeck, again enjoying the anchor winch was another small bird which is not so often seen at sea: the Meadow Pipit. Easily mistaken for a snow bunting in its winter plumage, this bird is a common songbird found in the upland areas throughout the palearctic region.

Later on, in the afternoon a Minke whale was spotted on port side. Those who were quick caught sight of the small whale before it dove back below the surface. The fog had settled in now so islands and wildlife were being spotted only near the ship. This included abundant bird life of gannets, fulmars and auks.

Over the PA system we heard Claudio announcing more whales. This time it was only on the inside of the ship indicating that they were close by. We grabbed our jackets and cameras to investigate what had been spotted in these famously wildlife rich waters of the Icelandic coast.

The afternoon was also a time to pack in between dashing outside for the sightings. These is never time to settle down to one activity around here as announcements of wildlife disrupt us!

Dolphins were spotted on the port side just after boot collection was complete. We all rushed to the outer decks with our binoculars and camera. Several humpback whales were spotted ahead. They were so close that binoculars were not even needed. The bridge team made a loop and stopped the ship so we could watch the whales. It was fun keeping an eye out for them, seeing the blow then hearing a call of another blow from the other side of the deck.

We had to delay the captains' cocktails whilst we watched the whales a little longer! It was spectacular to see for those who endured the atmospheric, wet weather. We had the final dinner with everyone and celebrated all the hard work of the crew. We were all very appreciative of being on this trip to such a remote and beautiful part of the world, made possible by all crew and guests on board.

Day 10 – Monday 8th September, Disembarkation Akureyri

0800 GPS Position: 65°40.01'N / 018°05.58'W

Wind: Varied 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +8°C

We woke up with mixed emotions today. We spent 10 unforgettable days together on *Ortelius*, catching up with old friends, making new ones, and sharing wonderful new experiences together.

Scoresby Sund had delivered superb scenery, good wildlife sightings and the impressive spectacle of a storm in the Denmark Strait! As we have seen, this place can offer deceivingly calm weather, but it can also throw freezing conditions with intense windspeeds. Not something to be underestimated. It was wonderful to have the warm and comfortable environment on board Ortelius to enjoy this wild and remote place from, share stories and rekindle our energy for the following day of activities each night.

We had a final breakfast onboard and said goodbye to the hotel and dining room team. We headed for the gangway for a final farewell. Some of us were staying in Iceland to continue our adventures, while others were heading home. One thing was for sure; we would not forget our time together in Greenland.

We would like to thank you for diving with us and wish you safe travels!
Hope to see you again on board!

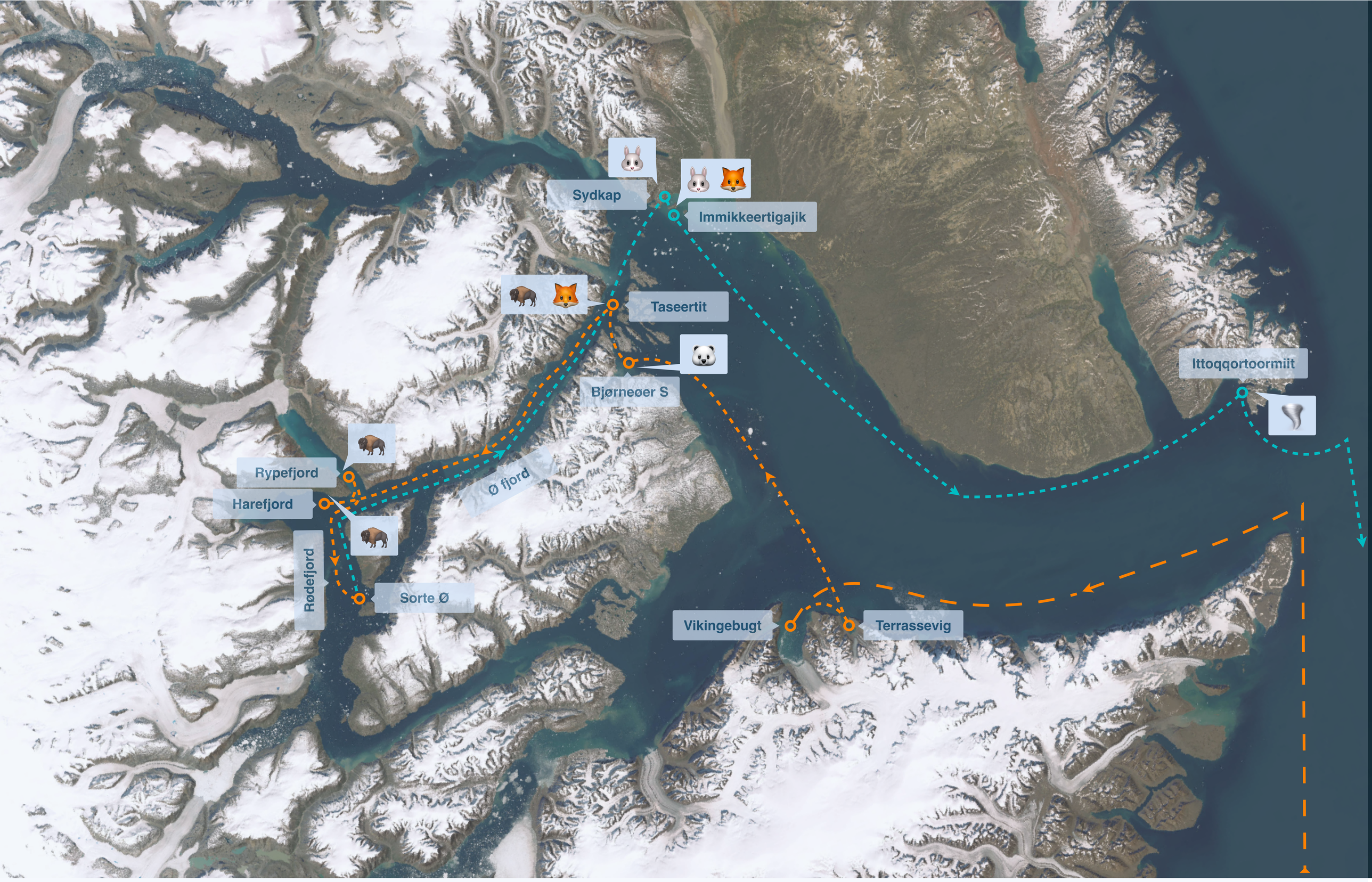
Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1078 nautical miles

Most northern point sailed: 71° 15.995’ N / 025° 12.280’W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson, Expedition Leader Claudio Ghiglione, Hotel Manager Ingrid van der Loo and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it was a great pleasure and a privilege travelling with you!

OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Sep.2nd
Sep.5th
Sep.3rd
Sep.6th
Sep.4th
Sep.1st
Aug.31st
Sep.7th
Denmark Strait
Aug.30th
Sep.8th
Akureyri



Date	AM/PM	Location	Activities		
Aug.30	PM	Akureyri	Embarkation		
Aug.31	All DAY	Denmark Strait	At Sea		
Sep.1st	AM	Vikingebugt	Zodiac Cruise	Diving	
	PM	Terrassevig	Zodiac Landing	Diving	
Sep.2nd	AM	Bjørneøer South	Zodiac Cruise	Diving	All Day Hike
	PM	Taseertit (Bjørneøer W)	Zodiac Landing	Diving	
Sep.3rd	AM	Harefjord	Zodiac Cruise	Diving	All Day Hike
	PM	Rypefjord	Zodiac Cruise		
Sep.4th	AM	Sorte Ø	Zodiac Landing	Diving	
	PM	Rødfjord/Ø Fjord	Ship Cruise		
Sep.5th	AM	Sydkap	Zodiac Landing	Diving	All Day Hike
	PM	Immikkeertigajik	Zodiac Landing	Diving	
Sep.6th	All DAY	Denmark Strait	At Sea		
Sep.7th	All DAY	Iceland north coast	At Sea		
Sep.8th	AM	Akureyri	Disembarkation		

Vikingebugt
Terrasseviig
Sorte Ø
Rødefjord
Harefjord
Rypefjord
Ø fjord
Bjørneøer S
Tasseqitit
Immikkeertigajik
Sydkap
Ittoqqortoormiit

Date	AM/PM	Location	Activities		
Aug.30	PM	Akureyri	Embarkation		
Aug.31	All DAY	Denmark Strait	At Sea		
Sep.1st	AM	Vikingebugt	Zodiac Cruise	Diving	
	PM	Terrassevig	Zodiac Landing	Diving	
Sep.2nd	AM	Bjørneøer South	Zodiac Cruise	Diving	All Day Hike
	PM	Taseertit (Bjørneøer W)	Zodiac Landing	Diving	
Sep.3rd	AM	Harefjord	Zodiac Cruise	Diving	All Day Hike
	PM	Rypefjord	Zodiac Cruise		
Sep.4th	AM	Sorte Ø	Zodiac Landing	Diving	
	PM	Rødfjord/Ø Fjord	Ship Cruise		
Sep.5th	AM	Sydkap	Zodiac Landing	Diving	All Day Hike
	PM	Immikkeertigajik	Zodiac Landing	Diving	
Sep.6th	All DAY	Denmark Strait	At Sea		
Sep.7th	All DAY	Iceland north coast	Whale watching		
Sep.8th	AM	Akureyri	Disembarkation		

English Name	***Latin***	**30-Aug**	**31-Aug**	**1-Sep**	**2-Sep**	**3-Sep**	**4-Sep**	**5-Sep**	**6-Sep**	**7-Sep**	**8-Sep**
Great Northern Diver	Gavia immer										
Red-throated diver	*Gavia stellata*	X				X		X			
Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	X	X						X	X	X
Great Shearwater	*Ardenna gravis*		X								
Sooty Shearwater	*Puffinus griseus*										
Pink-footed Goose	*Anser brachyrhynchus*					X	X		X		
Barnacle Goose	*Branta leucopsis*			X	X						
Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima*				X	X		X		X	X
Gyrfalcon	*Falco rusticolus*										
Peregrine	*Falco peregrinus*							X			
Long-tailed Duck	*Clangula hyemalis*					X		X		X	
Rock Ptarmigan	*Lagopus mutus hyperboreus*				X	X		X			
Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*			X	X	X				X	
Sanderling	*Calidris alba*										
Purple Sandpiper	*Calidris maritima*									X	
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*										
Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*			X							
Pomarine Skua	*Stercorarius pomarinus*		X						X		
Arctic Skua	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	X							X	X	
Long-tailed Skua	*Stercorarius longicaudus*		X								
Great Skua	*Stercorarius skua*										
Glaucous Gull	*Larus hyperboreus*		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Common Gull	*Larus canus*	X									X
Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	X									X
Lesser black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	X			X						
Great black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*									X	
Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	X	X	X					X	X	X
Ivory Gull	*Pagophila eburnea*		X	X							
Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*									X	X
Common Guillemot	*Uria aalge*	X								X	
Brunnich's Guillemot	*Uria lomvia*										
Black Guillemot	*Cepphus grylle*										X
Little Auk	*Alle alle*									X	

Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*								X	X	
Snowy Owl	*Nyctea scandiaca*				X						
Snow Bunting	*Plectrophenax nivalis*			X		X	X	X			
Meadow Pipit	*Anthus pratensis*							X		X	
White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*									X	
Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*						X	X			
Raven	*Covus corax*			X	X	X	X	X			
Arctic Redpoll	*Carduelis hornemanni*				X	X		X			
MAMMALS											
English Name	***Latin***	**30-Aug**	**31-Aug**	**1-Sep**	**2-Sep**	**3-Sep**	**4-Sep**	**5-Sep**	**6-Sep**	**7-Sep**	**8-Sep**
Walrus	*Odobenus rosmarus*										
Bearded seal	*Erignathus barbatus*										
Ringed seal	*Phoca hispida*				X		X				
Harp seal	*Pagophilus groenlandicus*										
Hooded seal	*Cystophora cristata*										
Common /Harbour seal	*Phoca vitulina*										
Minke Whale	*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*									X	
Sei Whale	*Balaenoptera borealis*										
Blue Whale	*Balaenopentera musculus*										
Fin Whale	*Balaenoptera physalus*										
Humpback Whale	*Megaptera novaeangliae*	X	X							X	
Bowhead whale	*Balaena mysticetus*										
Sperm Whale	*Physeter macrocephalus*										
Narwhal	*Monodon monoceros*										
Northern Bottlenose Whale	*Hyperoodon ampullatus*									X	
Orca (Killer Whale)	*Orcinus orca*										
White-beaked Dolphin	*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*	X								X	
Polar Bear	*Ursus maritimus*				X	X					
Arctic Fox	*Alopex lagopus*				X	X		X			
Arctic Hare	*Lepus timidus*				X	X		X			
Muskox	*Ovibus moschatus*				X	X	X	X			
Arctic Wolf	*Canis lupus*										

Ermine or Stoat	*Mustela erminea*										
Collared Lemming	*Dicrostonyx torquatus*					X					

Claudio Ghiglione – Exp. Leader

Claudio was born in Italy in 1983. He is a marine ecologist specialised in polar regions, expedition guide and nature photographer.

Interested in science and nature since he was very young, he graduated first in *Marine Environmental Sciences* (BA) and then in *Marine Science* (MA). In March 2017 he obtained a *PhD in Earth, Environmental and Polar Sciences* run in cooperation with the Italian National Antarctic Museum (Italy) and the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge (UK).

For several years he worked as a polar researcher focusing his work mainly on the South Pole (Antarctica); his objective is to analyse and evaluate information used for ecological modelling and possible future scenarios following global warming. During his academic career, he actively takes part in some scientific expeditions both in Arctic and in Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and England.

His passion for travel, mainly to cold and often inhospitable places, and his career as a photographer led him to travel a lot, creating and managing – often in complete autonomy – itineraries and logistics. In 2017 – thanks to his professional experience, the skills acquired over the time and the need to spend more time on the field – he starts working full time as a guide Oceanwide.

Specialised in nature, scientific and travel photography, Claudio uses his photos as a means of telling stories to draw attention mainly to his main subjects, namely animals, nature and environment. In the 2019 he published his first book ‘Polar Lights’ with whom he shares the passion for nature photography.

Chloé Maréchal – Asst.Exp. Leader

Chloé is a dedicated diver with an insatiable passion for marine life and exploration. Armed with a European master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, she's on a mission to share her expertise and promote the conservation of the marine environment. But here's the twist—while everyone else is busy oohing and aahing over flashy dolphins and majestic whales, Chloé's heart belongs to the unsung heroes of the ocean—the often underrated world of plankton and the mysteries of unseen microbes. She's here to show that even the tiniest organisms can have big personalities!

In April 2013, Chloé's dedication and skills were recognized when she was chosen as the prestigious 2013-14 European Rolex Our World Underwater Scholar. This remarkable opportunity allowed her to work alongside renowned leaders in the fields of marine science and diving industry, providing her with diverse experiences and invaluable insights. During this transformative year, her first encounter with Antarctica left an indelible mark, igniting a lifelong passion for polar exploration.

Chloé isn't just a science nerd with a thing for plankton. She's an adventurous soul with an insatiable curiosity. She's dived across all continents, lived in 20 countries, and now sails on her 12-meter aluminum boat. Together with her partner she has recently crossed the challenging waters of the North Sea.

Currently, Chloé calls northern Norway her home, residing just above the polar circle. When not guiding, she explores underwater wonders, uncovers forgotten wrecks, and maps uncharted underwater caves. Her passion for the ocean, sailing, and work with Oceanwide Expeditions fuel her relentless pursuit of adventure.

Tanja Bayer – Dive Team Leader

Tanja is at home in Oberursel, which is near Frankfurt / Main in Germany.

She has been diving since 1990 and has more than 4200 dives. In Oberursel she is running her own Diving Center “TaWo Diving“ since 1996.

As a Master Instructor and Course Director she teaches Diving and also trains Diving Instructors.

Her ‘second’ profession is being a Doctor in General Practice, Accident & Emergency and Diving Medicine.

She has been working as a ships doctor since 2009 in Antarctica and since 2015 also in the Arctic with Oceanwide Expeditions.

As a Dive Guide and Diving Expedition Leader she takes divers all around the world.

Asked for her favourite dive sites, she mentions ‘Planeau Bay’ in Antarctica. Cold water diving is really something special and challenging.

You have to be experienced and always aware of hypothermia. But it is a great feeling to touch an iceberg or to see all these colorful animals surviving in these harsh regions.

Clara Iachetti – Dive Guide

Clara is Argentinean, she was born in Buenos Aires on January the 21st. Since she was a kid Clara loved the ocean and the adventure. On 2011 she obtained her bachelor's Marine Biology-oriented degree in Biological Sciences, at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and a European M. Sc. in Marine Environment and Resources (MER) in 2012. On 2012 she started working in the Austral Centre for Scientific Investigations (CADIC-CONICET) at Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego (Argentina). Firstly, on her PhD on plankton dynamics, then with her postdoctoral project on harmful algal blooms, and nowadays as a free-lance researcher. For the last 12 years she has participated of several research expeditions to the South Atlantic and Antarctica, even spending three summer seasons in Shetland islands, at the Argentinean Base "Carlini".

She has been working in Antarctica and the Arctic with Oceanwide since the summer 2022-2023.

On top of her scientist career, Clara is a certified Professional Zodiac driver, a Professional Scientific Diver and underwater photographer. As a researcher and a diver, she is a member of Una Ventana al Mar, a non-profit organisation base in Ushuaia that supports marine conservation in which she is responsible for the educational program, lecturing and diving. Living in Ushuaia (and previously in Bariloche) has also led her passion towards mountaineering, mainly backcountry skiing and climbing.

Gonzalo Sabattini- Dive Guide

Gonzalo Sabattini was born in Córdoba, Argentina in 1987. Son of Cecilia and Juan and brother to Matias and Marcos.

Since a young kid his life was connected to water because his family owns fishing boats in Los Molinos Lake in Córdoba. Summers and weekends were endless among friends and family, swimming, and fishing.

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic Activities (FAAS_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

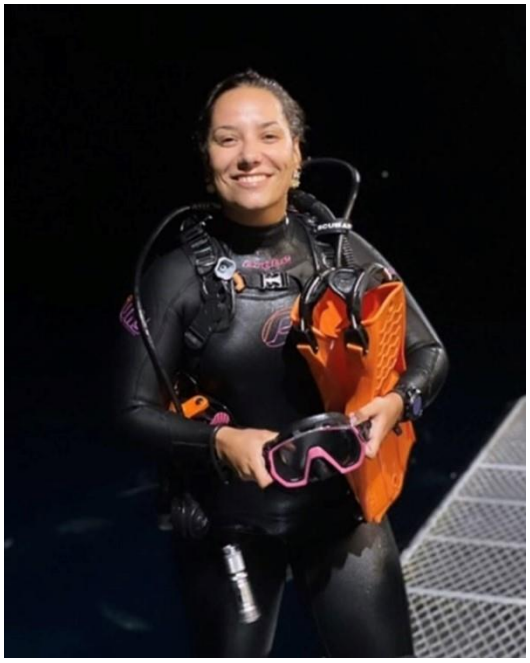
During his twenties Gonzalo was an active member of the local diving school collaborating as a volunteer as he continued his formation as a diver.

In 2013 he was invited to work to Cozumel, Mexico as a dive guide guiding certificate and first-time divers. At the island, he gained a lot of experience working with international tourism and he spent more than a year diving daily.

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, were diving and weather conditions are a challenge. For the last 6 years he has become a cold-water diver, mastering the dry suit and the rest of cold-water equipment. On 2018 he was certified as a dive instructor (FAAS – CMAS) and since then, works at a diving school lecturing new cold-water divers and guiding national and international divers who marvel with the kelp forests that characterize dives in the Beagle Channel.

On top off diving Gonzalo has always been as sportive person, he loves snowboarding, fishing, and spending time in nature and wilderness, and he found in Ushuaia a perfect playground.

Luce Moussiere – Dive Guide



She knew how to swim before she could walk. Luce is a young French scuba diving instructor, swimming instructor and hiking guide. She left France after a degree of Neuro-Linguistic Programming with the ambition to bring the most extraordinary experiences accessible to anyone.

She lived in Asia, and Australia where when she wasn't teaching recreational courses, she enrolled in multiple marine life conservation projects and coral reef restoration, working together with the Great Barrier Reef marine parks authority. She supervised explorations to survey remote untouched coral reef systems where she could then guide experienced divers to educate over climate change impacts. She led special trips on private yacht to encounter big marine life, such as bull sharks, tiger sharks, minke and humpback whales.

After 5 years in tropical waters, she then specialized in cold water environment, where she lives now in Iceland. She trained to adapt and work through Icelandic winters, with little to no daylight, and temperatures reaching -30 degrees Celsius (-22F). She is now diving or snorkelling in between the clear water of Silfra, fissure in between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.

She specialized in technical decompression diving, ice, cold, deep, night, wreck, and enriched air diving, and is always keen to add to her career more skills, to be able to dive and guide through the most challenging environments.

She also is an on-call guide when Icelandic volcanos erupt, hunting the best routes through volcanic lands to safely bring hikers to witness these events. When she is not working, you will find Luce hiking on fjords, glaciers, exploring ice caves, free diving in arctic kelp forests: enjoying this huge playground the raw Icelandic land can be.

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 90º North to 78º 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.

Beth Hitchcock – Expedition Guide

After graduating from her Geology honours degree in 2018 at Glasgow, Beth balanced two jobs until she succumbed to full time in the guiding world in 2021. Beth worked as a deckhand / guide on a tall ship and, when on the land, as an Engineering Geologist working mainly on Scotland's road and railway networks.

On the tall ships, Beth visited many places around the Atlantic Ocean from the Azores to Cape Town and Tristan da Cunha. In the austral summers she guides on the ship when they visit Antarctica and South Georgia. These are ideal places to interpret the landscape and explain to the guests how the glaciers and geological processes have carved what we see today. The incredible human history in these regions has a significant impact on the regional geological story and on our understanding of geology globally.

Beth also enjoys spending time in the mountains of Scotland where she works when she is not guiding on board ships. She grew up sailing around the islands of the west coast of Scotland - home to some fascinating geology where she spent many field trips during her undergraduate years. This sparked the desire to explore and embark on adventures to discover new landscapes and cultures around the world.

Jess Owen – Expedition Guide

Jess is from England and has recently been living on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation, citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Antarctic Peninsula. She is very excited to be returning to work with Oceanwide Expeditions for another season in the polar regions.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching. She loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew and likes travelling in her beloved campervan.

Simon Davies – Expedition Guide

Simon is a life-long birder and naturalist and after achieving a Masters degree in Ecology focusing on seabirds he has undertaken a broad range of wildlife related contracts around the world.

His career has predominantly been focused on birds (with the only notable 'blip' coming during a year researching Meerkats in South Africa) during which his focus has ranged from research to conservation to guiding and much in between. Most recently he has been working in Scotland and Sweden studying both breeding birds and migratory species through ringing/banding, a wide range of surveys and other tracking methods.

He is an experienced guide, having led bird and wildlife tours in Australia and many tours, walks and talks in his native UK, enthusiastic about sharing the wide range of seabirds in the colonies he loves.

Among the recent studies he has participated in has included putting geolocators on Black Guillemots in Scotland to find out where they are foraging, fixing satellite transmitters on migratory wading birds in Australia to track their movements as they move up and down the East Asia flyway and affixing geolocators on Great Reed Warblers in Sweden to work out migratory routes.

A large part of his recent work has also been training others in bird ringing/banding and surveying, hopefully inspiring others to a career in research or conservation.

The vast majority of his spare time is also spent birding and wildlife watching and he has undertaken many trips around the world including Australia, Europe, India, Venezuela and the USA, always chasing the next bird!

Karoline Bælum – Expedition Guide

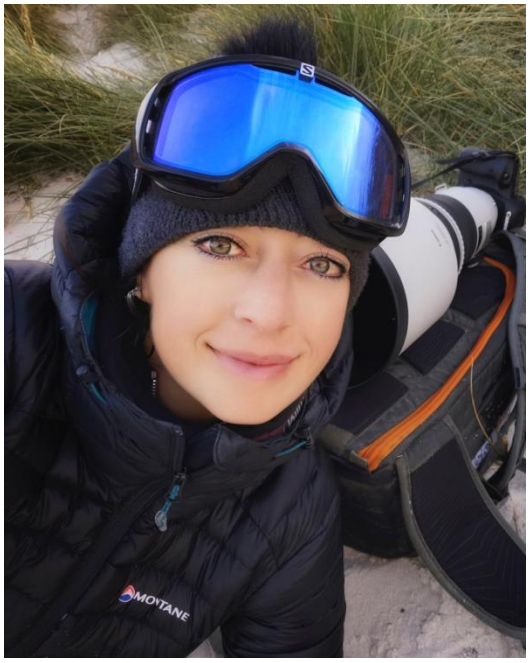
Karoline came to Svalbard as an undergraduate geology student in 2001 and never managed to leave. After more than 20 years on the island she has so far acquired a team of sled dogs, a master's degree in glaciology, a PhD in Geology, a kid and a trapper station.

In addition to guiding part time since 2002 she has worked both at the University Centre in Svalbard as a scientist and as a senior advisor for the Norwegian Research Council. She has guided trips for Oceanwide in Svalbard, Greenland, and Antarctica since 2007.

Together with her son, partner and 7 dogs she has done two overwinterings at Farmhamna Trapper station in Forlandssundet, keeping Svalbard's 400-year-old trapper tradition alive. When not working you can find her out with the dogs, up on a glacier or training with the Red Cross Avalanche rescue team.

Working and guiding in the Polar regions is a geoscientists dream as most of the landscape consists of rocks and ice. With no trees or much other vegetation to obscure the rocks the fascinating geological history is visible and easily accessible.

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!

Brian Veltrop – Expedition Guide

This is Brian, he is 31 years young and lives in the Netherlands.
Brian is a true nature lover. He has been in nature since he was little and has really found his passion for it in recent years.

In recent years, Brian has completed various courses in the outdoor world. In 2021 he started the training as a hike & survival instructor, hike & backpacking guide, international wilderness guide lvl 1. He trained for this in the Netherlands, France and Canada. He also followed the training of BICO, Baby it's cold outside and Mountain 101 (University of Alberta, Canada).
After completing these courses, he entered the specialization and completed the training as a wilderness guide lvl 2 and the winter travel & survival lvl 3 in Winter Canada.
As an examination for this, he had to endure a 48 hour solo in -30 (Celsius).

Furthermore, Brian is very passionate about identifying Flora & Fauna. He likes to look for animal tracks & signs and talk about them.

In addition to Oceanwide Expeditions, Brian works at two Dutch companies as a survival instructor and wilderness guide. These offer wilderness trips to Scandinavian countries, France, Poland, Canada and Spain. And is a member of the Wilderness Guide Association and Interpretive Guide Association.

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。

Veronique Verhoeven – Ships doctor

No one wants to get sick on the ship!!

….but if you do, you are in the good hands of ship's doctor Veronique.

When she was nine years old, her grandma gave her for Christmas a book on Christopher Columbus, which fascinated her so much that she decided she wanted to become an explorer too.

For years she fell asleep at night dreaming of future great adventures.

However, soon she found out that many of these explorers die young, poor and miserable, and she decided to change career.

That is how she ended up being an emergency doctor and a Professor in general practice at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Her first experience in the polar regions was a trekking expedition with scientists in Svalbard in 2005, where she acted, besides as the doctor, also as a cook and a watch keeper for polar bears at night. Since this wonderful experience, she has returned to the Arctic and the Antarctic every year, with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Among her hobbies are whitewater kayaking, kitesurfing and playing the oboe in an orchestra.

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 30th August 2025.

Day 1: Embarkation – Akureyri, Iceland.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage. **If you are missing any luggage or find bags in your cabin which are not yours, please inform 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 Captain Per Andersson, Hotel Manager Ingrid van de Loo, Expedition Leader Claudio Ghiglione and the Expedition Team in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a welcome toast to our voyage, introductory briefings about life on board and an overview of the exciting days ahead.

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

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. Medication 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.

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 31th August 2025

Day 2: The Denmark strait experience

0745	Wakeup-call by your Expedition Leader Claudio
0800-0900	Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
0930	We gather all together in the **BAR on DECK 6** to start our journey officially with the presentation of the Expedition team followed by the Mandatory briefings about: AECO, Zodiac operations and Polar bears. **This is mandatory for all the guests onboard.**
1230-1330	Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4**.
1400-1500	If you want to attend a **LONG HIKES** or **DIVE** on this trip you must attend the briefings which will be followed by signing up meeting. For the **hikers** the gathering area will be in the **bar on deck 6** and for the **divers** will be in the **lecture room on deck 3 forward**.
1630	We will start distributing much-boots in the lecture room on deck 3 forward. Please listen for your deck to be called and bring thick socks with you to try the right size. You will keep the boots in your cabin until the end of the voyage.
18:00	Join the Expeditions Staff in the **Bar on Deck 6** for an introduction about Greenland and the briefings on tomorrow's activities.
19:00	Dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 01st September 2025

Day 3: Vikingebugt and Terrassevig

0745 **Wakeup-call** by your Expedition Leader Claudio. **Buongiorno!**

0800-0900 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

This morning, we're planning to offer a zodiac cruise at Vikingebugt which is the largest of a series of small inlets in the broad outer portion of the Scoresby Sund. Vikingebugt is also well known for its the unique basalt columns features.

0915 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

0930 **Zodiac cruise:** Please come to the gangway; we will take you on a zodiac cruise at Vikingebugt.

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

This afternoon, we plan to land in the small fjord of Terrassevig. We hope to offer medium and short hiking options. The hike will take us through a moraine landscape to view a waterfall and glacier front. You may also spot Dwarf Fireweed, Greenland's national flower. Please note that the terrain is very rocky.

1415 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

1430 **Landing - Medium Hiker:** Please come to the gangway; we will take you ashore.

1445 **Landing - Short Hiker:** Please come to the gangway; we will take you ashore

18:15 **Daily Recap.** Join the expedition team at the bar to learn about tomorrow's programme and hear Arctic stories from the staff team.

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

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 02nd September 2025

Day 4: Milneland and BjørneØer

This morning, we'll be offering an extended full-day hike at Milneland, as well as morning long, medium, and short hike options. Please note that if you sign up for the full-day hike, you won't be able to participate in the afternoon activities.

0715 **Wakeup-call** by your Expedition Leader Claudio. **Buongiorno!**

0730-0830 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.** ***Long hikers:*** *please inform dining room team about your dinner choice for the evening.*

0845 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

0900 **Full-day hike:** Please come to the gangway
0910 **Long Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
0920 **Medium Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
0930 Contemplative **Hikers:** Please come to the gangway

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

This afternoon, we'll be ***zodiac cruising*** *at BjørneØer (Nannut Qeqertaat in Greenlandic), meaning 'Bear Islands'. This island group received its name from Carl Ryder during his 1891–92 East Greenland Expedition, after a bear was shot during the survey of the islands on September 4, 1891.*

1345 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

1400 **Zodiac cruise:** Please come to the gangway; we will take you on a zodiac cruise at Bear Islands.

18:15 **Daily Recap.** Join the expedition team at the bar to learn about tomorrow's programme and hear Arctic stories from the staff team.

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

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 03rd September 2025

Day 5: HareFjord and RypeFjord

0715 **Wakeup-call** by your Expedition Leader Claudio. **Buongiorno!**

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

This morning, we'll be offering an extended full-day hike from Harefjord to RypeFjord, as well as morning long, medium, and short hike options. Please note that if you sign up for the full-day hike, you won't be able to participate in the afternoon activities.

0845 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

0900 **Full-day hike:** Please come to the gangway
0910 **Long Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
0920 **Medium Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
0930 **Contemplative Hikers:** Please come to the gangway

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

This afternoon, we'll be offering hikes in RypeFjord. The name comes from the ptarmigan (rype in Norwegian), a hardy Arctic bird that inhabits this region.

1415 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

1430 **Long Hiker:** Please come to the gangway.
1445 **Medium Hiker:** Please come to the gangway.
1500 **Contemplative Hikers:** Please come to the gangway.

18:15 **Daily Recap.** Join the expedition team at the bar to learn about tomorrow's programme and hear Arctic stories from the staff team.

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

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 04th September 2025

Day 6: **Sorteø – Rødefjord**

0715 **Wakeup-call** by your Expedition Leader Claudio. **Buongiorno!**
0730-0830 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

*This morning, we'll be offering **hikes at Sorte** ("Black Island"). The island shows typical regional features: steep rock cliffs on one side and gentler, grassy slopes on the other, shaped by ancient glaciers. The softer slopes allow for easy hiking to viewpoints where you can see amazing views of icebergs floating in the water and the dramatic, glacier-covered landscape of nearby Milne Land.*

For the bravest among you, we'll be offering a polar plunge in the end of the morning's landing!
We will provide towels, so please DO NOT bring the towel from your room. We advise that you put your swimsuit on under your hiking clothes.

0845 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

0910 **Long Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
0920 **Medium Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
0930 **Contemplative Hikers:** Please come to the gangway

1300-1400 Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4**.

*This afternoon, we'll be offering a **ship cruise in Rødefjord** (meaning "Red Fjord") **& øfjord**. This s fjord features 300-million-year-old Permian red sandstone cliffs. The fjord's distinctive red rock walls give it its name and make it one of the most visually striking areas within the world's largest fjord system.*

We will also offer lectures – Please listen for announcements

18:15 **Daily Recap.** Join the expedition team at the bar to learn about tomorrow's programme and hear Arctic stories from the staff team.

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

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 05th August 2025

Day 7: Sydkap and Immikkeertigajik

0715 **Wakeup-call** by your Expedition Leader Claudio. **Buongiorno!**

0730-0830 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.** Full day hikers, please prepare your lunch.

This morning, we'll be offering an extended full-day hike at Sydkap as well as morning long, medium, and short hike options. Please note that if you sign up for the full-day hike, you won't be able to participate in the afternoon activities.

0845 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

0900 **Full-day hike:** Please come to the gangway
0910 **Long Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
0920 **Medium Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
0930 **Contemplative Hikers:** Please come to the gangway

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

This afternoon, we'll be offering hikes in Immikkeertigajik.

1415 **Divers:** Please come to the Zodiac Deck. Load the Zodiac with equipment, put on your drysuits, and proceed to the gangway.

1430 **Long Hiker:** Please come to the gangway.
1445 **Medium Hiker:** Please come to the gangway.
1500 **Contemplative Hikers:** Please come to the gangway.

18:15 **Daily Recap.** Join the expedition team at the bar to learn about tomorrow's programme and hear Arctic stories from the staff team.

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

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 06th September 2025

Day 8: Ittoqqortoormiit & Hurry Fjord

0730 **Wakeup-call** by your Expedition Leader Claudio. **Buongiorno!**

0745-0845 Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**

In the morning, we plan to offer a landing at Ittoqqortoormiit, one of the world's most remote settlements. This small Inuit community of approximately 345 residents sits on the shores of Scoresby Sund and serves as the gateway to Northeast Greenland National Park. Founded in 1925, the village is over 500 kilometres from its nearest neighbour.

You will have the opportunity to explore the village freely. Maps of the area are displayed around the ship - feel free to take photos for reference.
The last shuttle back to the ship departs at 12:15.

0900 **Landing:** Please come to the gangway.

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

???? **Long Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
???? **Medium Hikers:** Please come to the gangway
???? Contemplative **Hikers:** Please come to the gangway

1815 **Daily Recap.** Join the expedition team at the bar to learn about tomorrow's programme and hear Arctic stories from the staff team.

1900 **Plated Dinner** served in the **Dining room** on Deck 4.

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 7th September 2025

Day 9: The Denmark strait experience & Iceland

0745	Wakeup-call by your Expedition Leader Claudio
0800-0900	Breakfast is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4.**
0930	Today we will sail at the sea to try to escape the weather conditions we have around us. During the morning we will offer few lectures, please listen for announcements.
1230-1330	Lunch is served in the **Dining Room on Deck 4**.
1400-1500	we will explore the area around Iceland to try to find whales, and we will spend all afternoon-evening doing whale watching in the area.
1630	We will start distributing collecting much-boots in the lecture room on deck 3 forward. Please listen for your deck to be called.
18:00	Join the Expeditions Staff in the **Bar on Deck 6** for Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar on Deck 6 for **Captain's Farewell Cocktails** and a viewing of the slideshow.
19:00	Dinner is served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4.**

DAILY PROGRAM

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Date: 08th September 2025

Day 10: Disembarkation – Akureyri

Ensure all luggage is placed outside your cabin by 07:00 latest as we need to move it to the pier while you have breakfast. Keep the public areas clear when luggage is being moved.

06:45 Wakeup call.

07:00-08:00 Breakfast is served.
Please make sure that your luggage is outside your cabin before going to Breakfast.

08:30 Disembarkation for guests staying in Akureyri.

Once you disembark, please identify your luggage and either load it onto the bus (if you're taking the bus) or collect it to carry 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.