



North Spitsbergen Explorer-Versatile Landscapes, Sea Ice and Wildlife

20th June – 27th June, 2026

On board *M/V Hondius*



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



and his international crew of 73 sailors

Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	[Germany]
Second Officer:	Filipkowski Piotr	[Poland]
Third Officer:	Oleksandr Domashov	[Ukraine]
Operation Officer :	Anar Babaiev	[Ukraine]
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Ralph Bartel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Norman Estrada	[Philippines]
Sous Chef:	Felix Lobo	[India]
Ships doctor:	Linda Ceelen	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Chris Long	[NewZealand]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Jerry Zhao	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Juan Berenstein	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Lucia Romero	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland\UK]
Expedition Guide:	Marcelo Taparow	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Matt Cheok	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Isabelle Schulz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Sven Joest	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Andi Schwetz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Valeria Saiz Herrera	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Jens Binderup	[Denmark]
Expedition Guide:	Hana Spickova	[CzechRepublic]
Kayak Leader:	Alexis Belezze	[Argentina]
Kayak guide:	Chris Forrest	[UK]
Kayak safety driver :	Brian Veltrop	[Netherlands]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Saturday 20th June, Longyearbyen: Setting Sail into the Arctic wilds

16h00 GPS Position: 78°12.6'N, 014°42.1'E

Wind: NNE2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C

Our Arctic adventure began beneath a blanket of cloud hanging low over Longyearbyen. The small port bustled with anticipation as fellow travelers gathered, eager to begin our voyage aboard *Hondius*. In the afternoon, we boarded the waiting Zodiacs, these inflatable boats that will become our best friends for exploration soon. The ride offered our first taste of the expedition spirit: wind on our faces, the scent of the sea in the air, and the unmistakable excitement of heading toward the ship that would be our home for the days ahead.



We were warmly welcomed aboard by the crew and escorted to our cabins, where we quickly settled in and familiarized ourselves with our surroundings. The ship hummed with quiet energy as passengers unpacked, explored the decks, and watched the dramatic landscape of Svalbard drift by beyond the windows.

Before long, we gathered in the lounge for the mandatory safety briefing. The bridge team guided us through the procedures and protocols that would ensure a safe voyage as we ventured into one of the most remote regions on Earth. The briefing also heightened our anticipation; every instruction seemed to hint at the remarkable experiences that awaited us among the fjords and the pack ice.

Soon afterward, we were invited to the Observation Lounge for the Captains Welcome with drink and snacks. There we also met the expedition team, whose enthusiasm for the Arctic was infectious, along with the hotel manager and key members of the ship's staff. Introductions, laughter, and conversation filled the room as strangers quickly began to feel like companions on a shared adventure.



Our first dinner onboard followed, marking the true beginning of life at sea. As we enjoyed a delicious meal, *Hondius* continued her course through Isfjorden. Outside, the clouds

gradually parted and a beautiful Arctic light spread across the landscape and we had our first wildlife encounter: belugas! We were excited as we watched this small white whales swimming in the fjord around us. Golden rays illuminated the mountains surrounding the fjord, casting soft shadows across their rugged slopes. It was a breathtaking welcome to Svalbard and it perfectly set the tone for the extraordinary voyage ahead.



Day 2 – Sunday 21st June, Smeerenburg & Frambukta

12h00 GPS Position: 79°43.5'N, 011°06.5'E

Wind: S • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partially clouded • Air temperature: +7°C

Our day began with the first wake-up call from Expedition Leader Chris, welcoming us to another exciting day in the High Arctic. We gathered in the Dining Room to enjoy a delicious breakfast while admiring the spectacular scenery outside. Little did we know that wildlife had already prepared some unforgettable surprises for us.

During breakfast, we spotted the first whales of our voyage, delighting everyone on board. Shortly afterward, another exciting announcement interrupted our meal: a polar bear mother and her cub had been sighted. We quickly made our way to the decks, cameras and binoculars in hand, eager to witness these magnificent animals. As if that were not enough, we also spotted walrus in the water, making for a remarkable start to the day.

The ship began repositioning, and just as we were about to start our mandatory briefings, another announcement echoed through the vessel. Yet another polar bear had been spotted in the distance. We sailed a little longer to get closer, and soon we were rewarded with wonderful views of a particularly playful bear. It provided a memorable wildlife

encounter and an excellent opportunity for photography. After spending time with this Arctic icon, we resumed our course and attended the AECO, bear safety, and Zodiac briefings, officially preparing ourselves for the adventures ahead.

A delicious buffet lunch was served as we approached the stunning landscapes of Frambukta. With the magnificent Frambreen Glacier providing a dramatic backdrop, we enjoyed excellent food accompanied by breathtaking views before preparing for our first landing of the voyage.



The afternoon could not have offered better conditions. Under blue skies and bright sunshine, it was finally time to step ashore and experience Svalbard on foot. Frambukta provided a spectacular setting for our first landing, with impressive views of Frambreen Glacier dominating the landscape. Within a carefully established safety perimeter, we enjoyed a pleasant walk, stretching our legs while the Expedition Team continuously monitored the surroundings for any approaching polar bears. Along the way, we discovered walrus bones scattered across the tundra and spotted seals resting nearby.

To make the most of the afternoon, we divided into two groups. While one group enjoyed the landing, the other embarked on a Zodiac cruise through the bay. During the cruise, we explored the coastline, observed a historic trapper's hut, encountered the remains of a walrus



carcass, and admired the magnificent Sellströmbreen Glacier. Afterwards, we swapped activities, ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to experience both the landing and the Zodiac cruise.

The day concluded with our traditional recap. Chris shared the plans for the following day, building anticipation for the adventures still to come. Bill delivered another inspiring talk, encouraging us to see, feel, think, and fully engage with the extraordinary experiences unfolding around us. Valeria followed with practical tips and tricks for taking better photographs with our mobile phones, helping us preserve the memories we were already creating.

A delicious dinner was then served in the Dining Room, giving us the chance to share stories, photographs, and favorite moments from an unforgettable day.

With whales, walruses, multiple polar bear sightings, our first landing, our first Zodiac cruise, spectacular glaciers, and beautiful weather, we could not have asked for a better start to our Arctic adventure.

Day 3 – Monday 22nd June, Palanderbukta & Alkefjellet

12h00 GPS Position: 79°38.0'N, 020°08.3'E

Wind:SE2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +5°C

We awoke to a spectacular morning in Hinlopenstretet, greeted by brilliant sunshine, calm seas, and not a breath of wind. With such exceptional conditions, we spent the morning exploring the islands and coastline, keeping a close watch for wildlife in this remote and beautiful part of Svalbard.

As we cruised towards the entrance of Palanderbukta, several white shapes appeared close to the shoreline. A group of beluga whales was moving through the shallow waters, providing wonderful views from both the ship and the deck. Taking advantage of the calm weather and the wildlife activity, we decided to launch the Zodiacs and spend the remaining morning exploring the area from sea level.



The Zodiac cruise proved highly rewarding. Along the shoreline we enjoyed trying to find the belugas, while further out we discovered a walrus resting peacefully on an ice floe. Nearby, a bearded seal was also hauled out on the ice, offering excellent opportunities to observe these Arctic specialists in their natural habitat. The combination of wildlife, drifting ice, and perfect weather created a memorable morning for everyone on board.



After returning to Hondius for lunch, we continued south towards the dramatic bird cliffs of Alkefjellet. Conditions remained outstanding, allowing us to enjoy another Zodiac cruise beneath one of Svalbard's most impressive natural spectacles. Towering dolerite cliffs rose directly from the sea, alive with the activity and sounds of approximately 60,000 breeding pairs of Brunnich's guillemots.

Thousands of birds wheeled overhead, streamed to and from the nesting ledges, and crowded every available perch, creating an unforgettable wildlife experience. We could also observe Glaucous gulls patrolling, as well as Kittiwakes nesting alongside the guillemots with a different nesting strategy as they use moss and grass to build a proper nest, compared to the guillemots who just lay their egg on the rock edge. Even some of us saw an arctic fox searching for food in the area! What an unforgettable experience.



Back on board in the evening, we gathered for the daily recap, reflecting on a remarkable day of Arctic wildlife encounters and exceptional weather. The expedition team outlined plans for the following day, when we hope to spend our time exploring the sea ice in search of the unique wildlife that depends on this ever-changing frozen habitat.

Day 4 – Tuesday 23rd June, Into the sea ice

12h00 GPS Position: 80°43.5'N / 013°31.1'E

Wind: SE6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Part.Cloudy • Air temperature: +2°C

Our first day exploring the sea ice north of Svalbard was one to remember. Early in the morning, we were woken by our Expedition Leader, Chris, with the exciting announcement that we were heading into the ice. As everyone gathered on deck, the ship slowly entered the frozen landscape, pushing gently through the drifting sea ice. The sound of the hull breaking through the floes and the ever-changing patterns of the ice made for a truly unforgettable Arctic experience.

The weather was typically polar—cold throughout the day, with a mix of sunshine and overcast skies creating beautiful light across the ice. Not long after entering the ice, we were rewarded with our first marine mammal sighting: a group of beautiful beluga whales. Their bright white bodies stood out against the dark water as they gracefully swam alongside an ice floe, giving everyone on deck a wonderful welcome to the High Arctic. As

we continued our journey deeper into the ice, birdlife surrounded us throughout the day. Black-legged kittiwakes followed the ship, while black guillemots and Brünnich's guillemots were regularly spotted on the water. An elegant ivory gull made a special appearance, and impressive swarms of little auks flew low over the sea, filling the air with activity.



The highlight of the day came later when a small group of narwhals was spotted in the distance. Although they were far away and not easy to see, patient observers were rewarded with views of these incredibly rare and elusive whales as they surfaced among the ice. While everyone was focused on the narwhals, an unexpected bonus appeared—a magnificent bowhead whale surfaced nearby, making an already extraordinary wildlife encounter even more memorable. In addition, during our navigation through the ice we reached the northernmost point of our trip. After an incredible day surrounded by Arctic wildlife and breathtaking sea ice, we ended the evening with a festive barbecue on deck. With music playing, people dancing, and smiles all around, it was the perfect celebration of our first day in the ice. A day filled with unforgettable moments that will stay with us for years to come.



Day 5 – Wednesday 25th June, around the sea ice

12h00 GPS Position: 80°41.7'N / 012°37.0'E

Wind: S4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast/sunny • Air temperature: +5°C

Our second day in the pack ice began beneath a blanket of low, overcast clouds. A light wind swept across the frozen seascape as we awoke aboard *Hondius*, drifting in one of the most remote wildernesses on Earth at around 80° North. Outside, the Arctic appeared as an endless icy desert, a world of white and grey stretching to every horizon. Yet despite the apparent emptiness, the expedition staff remained tirelessly on watch, scanning the ice for signs of life.

The morning passed quietly as we navigated through the pack. Around midday, Pierre began his eagerly anticipated lecture on polar bears. These magnificent predators are perfectly adapted to life on the sea ice, relying on it as a platform from which to hunt seals. Little did we know that we were about to witness these iconic Arctic residents ourselves. Marcelo set up a historic museum with amazing artefacts he had collected around the world about polar exploration.



Halfway through the lecture, excitement suddenly erupted. An announcement crackled over the loudspeaker: **two polar bears had been spotted**. In an instant, we rushed from the lecture room to the outer decks. There they were—a large male and a female moving gracefully across the ice. Through binoculars and camera lenses, we watched in awe as they gradually approached the ship. For several unforgettable moments, it felt as though we were studying one another across the frozen expanse.

Then came an extraordinary bonus. Right before our eyes, the male mated with the female, offering us a glimpse into one of nature's rarest and most intimate spectacles. Few people ever witness such behaviour in the wild, and the decks buzzed with disbelief and excitement.

After lunch, Pierre resumed his polar bear presentation, while Bill followed with an insightful lecture about sea ice. The ice beneath us was not merely frozen water but a dynamic habitat supporting an entire Arctic ecosystem.



By late afternoon, the clouds had broken and sunshine illuminated the ice edge. To celebrate our success, we gathered on the bow for hot chocolate as *Hondius* drifted peacefully through the glittering landscape. It was one of those perfect polar moments that seemed almost unreal.

As if the day had not already delivered enough wonders, another announcement came just after the daily recap and shortly before

dinner: a narwhal had been spotted resting near the ice edge. The lucky few who were in the right place at the right time caught a glimpse of its mottled back before it quietly disappeared beneath the dark water.

The evening concluded with Bill's fascinating presentation on the relationship between ice and art, providing a thoughtful ending to an extraordinary day. Encounters with polar bears, a fleeting narwhal, sunshine on the ice, and the endless beauty of the High Arctic combined to make this one of those rare days that will remain etched in our memories forever.



Day 6 – Thursday 26th June, Lilliehookbren & Signehamna

12h00 GPS Position: 79°20.4' N, 011°41.8'E

Wind: N2 • Sea: Ice • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +5°C

Another beautiful Arctic morning greeted us as we awoke surrounded by the icy waters of Lilliehöökfjorden. Following breakfast, we prepared for a Zodiac cruise in front of the magnificent Lilliehöökreen, one of Spitsbergen's largest and most impressive glacier complexes. Extending over 22 kilometres, the glacier dominates the fjord with its towering ice front, while freshly calved icebergs drift silently through the calm waters.

From the Zodiacs, we admired the striking shades of blue within the glacier's fractured face and listened to the occasional crack and rumble as the ancient ice slowly reshaped the landscape. The rich Arctic waters offered rewarding wildlife encounters, with several bearded seals resting on floating ice and flocks of common and king eiders feeding nearby. Keeping a careful watch across the fjord, there was also the exciting possibility of spotting elusive beluga whales as they travelled through the icy channels.

After returning to the ship for lunch, our afternoon expedition took us ashore at Signehamna, a peaceful natural harbour nestled within Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park. Divided into long, medium, and leisurely hiking groups, we explored this fascinating landscape at different paces, each discovering its own unique character.



Signehamna combines remarkable natural beauty with a compelling chapter of Arctic history. During our walks, we visited the remains of the secret German World War II weather stations "Knospe" and "Nussbaum," hidden here until they were located and destroyed by Norwegian forces in 1943. Their weathered remnants stand quietly among the tundra, a reminder of the strategic importance of the High Arctic during the war.

Beyond its historical significance, the area proved rich in wildlife. Reindeer grazed peacefully across the tundra, seemingly unfazed by our presence, while the small freshwater ponds provided excellent habitat for red-throated divers and other Arctic birdlife. Delicate summer flowers had begun to emerge across the landscape, adding subtle colour to the mosses and lichens beneath the dramatic mountain backdrop.

Back on board, we gathered in the bar for the daily recap, sharing the day's wildlife sightings, photographs, and stories while learning more about tomorrow's plans. Dinner followed in the Dining Room before the evening concluded with Adam's presentation, introducing some of Oceanwide's other remarkable expedition destinations around the world. It was a fitting end to another rewarding day of exploration in the High Arctic, where spectacular glaciers, abundant wildlife, and fascinating history combined to create lasting memories.

Day 7 – Friday 26th June, Gjertsenodden – St. Jonsfjorden & Poolepynten

12h00 GPS Position: 78°31.0' N, 012°49.8'E

Wind: SE1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +8°C

Today we started our day early. Just after 8:00 am, we boarded the Zodiacs and headed to our first landing site, Gjertsenodden, a beautiful peninsula in St. Jonsfjorden.

The usually brown Svalbard landscape surprised us with a wonderful display of colorful flowers. The tundra was covered with yellow, white, pink, and purple blooms, making the scenery bright and beautiful.

After landing, we split into three hiking groups: short, medium, and long. All groups visited a small wooden cabin on the beach called Perhytta, or Per's Hut. It was built many years ago by a polar bear hunter and is a reminder of Svalbard's history.



From there, each group explored a different route. We walked across moraines, climbed higher for amazing views of a glacier, continued along the foot of the mountains through the green tundra, and along the beach followed by curious seals. Along the way, we spotted several Svalbard reindeer peacefully grazing, rock ptarmigans blending into the landscape, and Arctic skuas protecting their nesting areas.

Before leaving, the bravest members of the group took the chance to enjoy a real Arctic experience. They jumped into the icy water for a refreshing polar plunge.

After a delicious lunch, it was time for our next landing. This time we visited the unique island of Prince Karls Forland and landed at Poolepynten, a place famous for its walrus.

Soon after landing, we walked to the beach to watch these huge animals resting together. We continued our hike past two huts and through an area where Arctic terns were nesting. The birds were very protective of their nests and flew close above our heads, trying to scare us away. We carefully kept moving, giving them plenty of space.



As we explored the wild Arctic coastline, we found old whale bones left from the time of whale hunting many years ago. We also came across the remains of a reindeer, most likely eaten by a polar bear. The bear had been there only one day before our visit. We could still see its fresh footprints in the sand. We stopped to compare the size of the tracks with our hands, and everyone was amazed by how large they were.

At the end of the day, it was time to celebrate our successful voyage with the traditional Captain's Cocktail. Everyone gathered together to enjoy the last evening on Hondius and look back on the unforgettable moments we had shared during our Arctic adventure.

Captain Remmert raised a glass and toasted to the amazing voyage, the beautiful weather, and the many lucky wildlife encounters we had experienced along the way. From polar bears and walrus to whales, seabirds, and reindeer, this expedition had given us memories that will last a lifetime.

Day 8 – Saturday 27th June, disembarkation in Longyearbyen

04h00 GPS Position: 78°14.2' N, 015°03.4'E

Wind: NNW2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C

A cloudy morning welcomed us in Longyearbyen. As we gathered for one final breakfast on board, there was a quiet sense of reflection in the air. Outside, the crew gently unloaded our suitcases, a silent reminder that our Arctic adventure was drawing to a close.

Over these past days, the *Hondius* has been far more than a ship—she's been our shelter, our launchpad into the wild, and our floating home. Within her walls we've shared laughter, awe, and moments that will stay with us for a lifetime.

Together, we ventured deep into the high latitudes, witnessed landscapes sculpted by ice and time, and encountered wildlife most only dream of—polar bears, walrus, whales, the mesmerizing dance of seabirds in the Arctic skies and the most unique one: narwals! Along the way, strangers became companions, and companions became friends.

Now, with hearts and cameras full, we begin the journey home. Though we leave the ice behind, its spirit travels with us, etched into memory, carried in stories, and felt in quiet, unforgettable moments.

Thank you for joining us on this remarkable voyage. Your curiosity, warmth, and camaraderie made this journey truly special. Wherever your path leads next, we hope it brings you back to these wild places and perhaps, one day, back to us.

Until we meet again. Safe travels, and fair winds.



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 901,7 NM

Northernmost point: 80°50.4'N, 012°39.5'E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Remmert Koster , Expedition Leader Chris Long, Hotel Manager Albert Don and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

– KAYAK –

This week we explored some of the most spectacular paddling environments on the west and the north coasts of Svalbard, visiting Frambukta, Palanderbukta, Alkafjellet, Lilliehookbreen, Signehamna and St Josnfjorden.

Our Journey was much more than a kayaking expedition -it was a week of learning, teamwork and shared experiences. Throughout the trip, everyone steadily improved their paddling skills, adapted to new partners and worked together despite coming from very different backgrounds. It was inspiring to see guests from the Netherlands, Turkey, Guatemala, Spain and Canada come together with a common goal and quickly becoming a cohesive team.

The highlight of the expedition was undoubtedly Alkafjellet. Paddling beneath towering cliffs occupied by nearly 60.000 breeding pairs of Guillemots- around 120.000 birds filling the sky- was an unforgettable wildlife experience, including arctic foxes.

Throughout the week we explored an incredible diversity of Arctic landscapes: tidewater glaciers calving into the sea, land -terminating glaciers slowly retreating, sculpted mountains revealing fascinating geological formations and rock intrusions, and glacial rivers carrying fine sediments into the fjords. We paddled through brash ice, navigated among icebergs and witnessed the immense power of glacier calving as massive ice blocks crashed into the ocean just a safe distance away.

Wildlife encounters included walrus, bearded seals and harbour seals, making every day unique and rewarding.

It was a week filled with discovery, personal progression and unforgettable moments in one of the world's most pristine wildernesses.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm, teamwork and curiosity-it was a privilege to share this Arctic adventure together.



**North Spitsbergen Explorer
– Versatile Landscapes
Sea ice and Wildlife
M/V Hondius**

20th June – 27th June

- 0. Longyearbyen
- 1. Smeerenburgfjorden, polar bear sighting
- 2. Frambukta, landing
- 3. Palanderbukta, landing
- 4. Alkjefjellet, zodiac cruise
- 5. Pack ice day, Narwhals sighting !
- 6. Pack ice day, Polarbear sighting !
- 7. Lilliehookbreen Zodiac cruise
- 8. Signahamna Landing
- 9. St. johnsfjorden, landing
- 10. Pooleynten , landing



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard

English Name	Latin	German	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	20/6	21/6	22/6	23/6	24/6	25/6	26/6
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sternaucher	B						x	x
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschabelgans	B							x
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	B						x	x
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	B	x	x	x			x	x
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	B					x		
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	B							x
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	B							x
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	B							x
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	B							x
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	B						x	x
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	B							x
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwalzer	B							x
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshuhnchen	B					x		x
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-mowe	B		x	x			x	x
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	B			x		x	x	x
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmowe	B						x	
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismowe	B		x	x		x	x	x
Great black backed	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmowe	B				x			
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmowe	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmowe	B				x	x	x	
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Kustenseeschwalbe	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	B	x	x	x	x	x		
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	B	x	x	x			x	x
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	B	x	x	x			x	x
Northern Gannet	<i>Alcatraz Atlantico</i>	Basstolpel	v					x		

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	20/6	21/6	22/6	23/6	24/6	25/6	26/6
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	B		x	x				x
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	B			x			x	
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	B			x	x			
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	T		x		x	x		
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	V				x			
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	B		x					x
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	T	x	x		x			
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Grönlandwal	T				x			
Beluga	<i>Dezhinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	B	x		x	x			
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	B		x			x		
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	B			x			x	x
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	B	x					x	x
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal					x	x		

Chris Long – Expedition Leader



Chris grew up as a part of New Zealand's remotest family two long days hike from the nearest road at a place called Gorge River, on the South Islands West Coast, New Zealand.

His family lives as self-sufficiently as possible in a small cabin surrounded by the jungled rainforest, the rough rugged coastline, and an emerald green river. Most of their food came from a huge vegetable garden or was fished from the ocean. This wild untouched natural corner of New Zealand was Chris's home for the first 17 years of his life, until, one day, he set out to explore what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 60 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea and East

Antarctica.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway, enduring two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races.

Since recently returning to New Zealand, he has published an autobiography and is training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license.

Deutsch

Chris wuchs als Teil einer der abgelegensten Familien Neuseelands auf – zwei lange Tagesmärsche von der nächsten Straße entfernt, an einem Ort namens Gorge River an der Westküste der Südinsel, Neuseeland.

Seine Familie lebt so autark wie möglich in einer kleinen Hütte, umgeben von dichtem Regenwald, einer rauen, zerklüfteten Küste und einem unberührten smaragdgrünen Fluss. Der Großteil ihrer Nahrung stammt aus einem großen Gemüsegarten oder wird aus dem Meer gefischt. Diese wilde, unberührte Ecke Neuseelands war die ersten 17 Jahre seines Lebens Chris' Zuhause – bis er sich eines Tages aufmachte, um zu erkunden, was der Rest der Welt zu bieten hat.

Seit er Gorge River verlassen hat, ist Chris unterwegs, um so viel wie möglich von der Welt zu sehen, zu erkunden und zu erleben. Diese ständige Suche nach Abenteuern führte ihn in über 65 Länder auf allen sieben Kontinenten. Auf diesem Weg verbrachte er zwei komplette Sommersaisons als Field Trainer auf der Scott Base, einer neuseeländischen Forschungsstation in der Antarktis, und unternahm mehrere Reisen in das Rossmeer, zur Antarktischen Halbinsel, nach Ostantarktika und in den Atlantischen Ozean.

Auch in der Arktis ist Chris kein Unbekannter. Einmal segelte er auf einer kleinen Yacht durch die berühmte Nordwestpassage entlang der Küsten Grönlands, Kanadas und Alaskas. Außerdem verbrachte er einen Großteil der COVID-Pandemie in Tromsø im Norden Norwegens, wo er mit 150 Huskys lebte. Dort erlebte er zwei lange, kalte und dunkle arktische Winter und trainierte für Langstrecken-Hundeschlittenrennen. Jeden Sommer arbeitet er zudem als Guide für Oceanwide auf Svalbard.

Im Jahr 2022 veröffentlichte Chris seine Bestseller-Autobiografie „The Boy From Gorge River“. Wenn er nicht auf See ist, findet man ihn beim Training für seine kommerzielle Pilotlizenz für Starrflügelflugzeuge oder dabei, einen neuen Winkel der Welt zu erkunden.

Pierre Gallego – Asst. Exp. Leader



Pierre is a veterinarian specialised in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organising marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

Deutsch

Pierre ist Tierarzt und hat sich auf Meeressäuger spezialisiert. Er arbeitet im Gebiet der Meeresbiologie seit 18 Jahre und organisiert Ausbildungen über Meeressäuger rundum die Welt seit 2004. Er vertritt die Regierung Luxemburgs an der Walfangkommission und CCAMLR, und arbeitet mit mehreren internationalen Umweltschutzorganisationen um die Erhaltung von Meeressäuger zu promovieren und deren Gefangenschaft zu bekämpfen.

Er macht gerade eine Doktorarbeit am Ozeanologie Lab der Universität Lüttich in Belgien. Seine Doktorarbeit beschäftigt sich mit stabile Isotopen und Schadstoffen in Buckelwalen aus Mosambik und Ecuador.

Er ist ein eifriger Vogelbeobachter und hat viel Spass an Fotografie. Das Meer ist seine Leidenschaft, und Wasser ist sein Element.

Jerry Zhao – Asst. Expedition Leader



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

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

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

Along the way as he spent more time in polar regions, learns more about polar regions, he is more interested in polar regions. He has self-studied the geography, wildlife and history of the Polar regions. He is

beginning to learn wildlife photography.

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

Deutsch

Jerry ist bereits sein ganzes Leben in die Natur und die Tierwelt verliebt und vor allem unterwegs. Kurz nach seinem Abschluss in Betriebswirtschaftslehre an der Drexel University in Philadelphia begann seine Karriere in der Reisebranche. Jerry arbeitete zunächst als internationaler Reiseberater und Tourguide und leitete exklusive kleine High-End-Gruppen in ganz Europa.

Danach wurde er Partner in einer internationalen Reiseberatungsfirma und konzentrierte sich auf Routenplanung und Mitarbeiterschulung.

Auf der Suche nach mehr Abenteuer sammelte er Fähigkeiten und Wissen während er um die Welt reiste. Schlussendlich führte ihn sein Weg in die Polarregionen, und schloss sich Oceanwide Expeditions als Expeditionsführer an, er bereits viele Male Expeditionen zum Nordpol, Spitzbergen, Grönland, Antarktische Halbinsel und Südgeorgien geführt.

Während seiner Zeit in den Polarregionen hat er viel über die Polarregionen gelernt und ist mit einem Studium über Tierfotografie begonnen.

Wenn er nicht in Polarregionen unterwegs ist, verbringt er seine Zeit gerne im Wald und in den Wüstenebenen im Nordwesten Chinas. Er liebt die Natur und die Tierwelt, und vor allem sein Wissen zu Teilen an jedem der ihm begegnet.

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina and is a Zodiac driver, expedition and photography guide.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying the outdoors and being in the mountains. His hobbies are hiking, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country on holidays.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in the polar regions for several years now, including Antarctica, South Georgia, Falkland Islands, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Great Lakes in North America.

Deutsch

Juan ist ein professioneller Fotograf und Drohnenpilot, geboren in Ushuaia, Argentinien, und ist ein Zodiac-Fahrer, Expeditions- und Fotografie-Guide.

Er ist eine junge und hochmotivierte Person, die es liebt, die Natur zu genießen und in den Bergen zu sein. Zu seinen Hobbys gehören Wandern, FPV-Drohnenfliegen und Fotografie.

Seine Leidenschaft für die Natur begann schon in jungen Jahren mit seiner Familie, welche die Wochenenden am Ende der Welt beim Camping verbrachte und während der Ferien im Land reiste. Er studierte Fotografie in Buenos Aires und entschied sich, in seine Heimatstadt zurückzukehren, um seine Karriere zu starten und eine unabhängige Lebensweise zu entwickeln.

Juan arbeitet seit mehreren Jahren in den Polarregionen, einschließlich der Antarktis, Südgeorgien, Falklandinseln, Spitzbergen, Grönland und den Großen Seen in Nordamerika.

Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide



Lucia is an extroverted and curious person always looking for new challenges and experiences worldwide.

Born and raised in Puerto Madryn, a small town of Argentinian Patagonia coast, she grew up surrounded by marine wildlife and outdoor lifestyle. This led her to choose her career, with a bachelor degree in hospitality and tourism and becoming a professional tour guide and kayak guide.

She loves sharing her passion for exploration, learning, discovering, conservation and wildlife.

With over 12 years of experience on leading groups around Patagonia, she is now focusing on the wonders and biodiversity of the polar environments.

Deutsch

Lucia ist eine extrovertierte und neugierige Person, die immer auf der Suche nach neuen Herausforderungen und Erfahrungen weltweit ist.

Sie wurde in Puerto Madryn, einer kleinen Stadt an der Küste der argentinischen Patagonien, geboren und aufgezogen und wuchs umgeben von Meereswildtieren und einem Outdoor-Lifestyle auf. Dies führte sie dazu, ihre Karriere zu wählen, mit einem Bachelor-Abschluss in Gastgewerbe und Tourismus sowie als professionelle Reiseleiterin und Kajakführerin.

Sie liebt es, ihre Leidenschaft für Entdeckung, Lernen, Erkundung, Naturschutz und Wildtiere zu teilen. Mit über 12 Jahren Erfahrung in der Leitung von Gruppen durch Patagonien, konzentriert sie sich nun auf die Wunder und die Biodiversität der Polarregionen.

Bill Smith - Expedition Guide



“Super Bill” as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun-loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 55 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 55 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

He has the following qualifications: -

- Royal Yachting Association Advanced Powerboat Instructor
 - Royal Yachting Association Senior Sailing Instructor
 - Royal Yachting Association Windsurfing Instructor
 - British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor
 - British Association of Ski Patrollers National Patroller
 - British Association of Ski Patrollers First Aid Trainer
- Snow Sport Scotland Ski leader
 - President of the Assynt Highland Games
 - Honorary member of Assynt Crofters Trust
 - Member of the Federation Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip.

Deutsch

“Super Bill” wie er von seinen Mitarbeiter und Mitreisenden genannt wird, ist ein spassiger Aussenwelt Enthusiast, Karikaturist und früherer Leiter von Kunst und Design Ausbildung am Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill kam zu Oceanwide Expeditions als Führer als die Plancius gebaut und über den letzten Jahre ist er süchtig nach den Polargegenden geworden.

Er hat 55 Jahre Erfahrung in Kunst und Design für die Industrie. Er hat auch über 55 Jahre Erfahrung als Führer und Instruktor in verschiedenen Aussenwelt Aktivitäten.

Bill genießt es für jede Reise Karikaturen für den Log zu entwickeln.

Marcelo Tarapow – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

He is the President of the Academy of Antarctica, a lecturer and researcher especially on topics related to the White Continent, having presented on historical

Antarctic expeditions in Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Colombia, France and Romania.

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

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

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

Deutsch

Marcelo Tarapow hat einen Masterabschluss in Sozialwissenschaften mit Spezialisierung auf Geschichte von der Nationalen Universität von Quilmes, ist pensionierter Konteradmiral der argentinischen Marine, Ehrenprofessor an der Nikola-Vaptsarov-Akademie (Bulgarien) und Absolvent im Bereich Marinesysteme.

Zwischen 1988 und 2017 nahm er an zwölf Expeditionen in die Antarktis teil und übernahm dabei verschiedene Rollen, bis er bei seinen letzten beiden Einsätzen die Leitung innehatte. Insgesamt verbrachte er rund 900 Tage in der Antarktis.

Darüber hinaus absolvierte er Studien in den Bereichen Umweltschutz, Klimawandel, Energieeffizienz und Tourismus.

Er war als Dozent in vorbereitenden Antarktiskursen in Argentinien, Kolumbien und Bulgarien tätig, insbesondere zu Themen wie Navigation, Meteorologie, dem Antarktisvertrag und dem Madrider Protokoll.

Er ist Präsident der Akademie der Antarktis sowie Referent und Forscher, insbesondere zu Themen rund um den „Weißen Kontinent“. Dabei hat er Vorträge über historische Antarktisexpeditionen in Argentinien, Belgien, Bulgarien, Kolumbien, Frankreich und Rumänien gehalten.

Zudem ist er Mitglied des Rates von Polar Educators International für die Amtszeit 2024–2025.

Zu seinen wichtigsten Hobbys zählen Schwimmen, Radfahren, Tango, Lesen sowie das leidenschaftliche Sammeln antiker Gegenstände mit Bezug zur Antarktischgeschichte. Außerdem ist er ein Hobbyfotograf.

Er ist stets bereit, von anderen Kulturen zu lernen, Geschichten zuzuhören, seine Erfahrungen mit Begeisterung zu teilen und sich für den Schutz der Umwelt einzusetzen.

Rose Li- Expedition Guide



Rose Li is an accomplished expedition professional with a diverse background in interior design, hospitality, and polar guiding.

Originating from China, she graduated from Wuhan College with a degree in Interior Design. Since 2014, her career has been dedicated to immersive travel, beginning on international cruise ships where she honed her skills as an Expedition Guide, VIP Services Executive, and Head Cruise Ambassador across Asia and Europe.

In 2018, Rose transitioned into the expedition industry, where her passion for geology and history became central to her role. She serves as a Polar Expedition Guide & Lecturer, captivating guests with insights into the earth's past and landscapes. Her versatile skill set also encompasses interpretation, Zodiac driving, and Guest Services Management.

An avid adventurer, Rose has visited over 50 countries. Outside of work, she channels her creativity and energy into skiing, and hosting. She is always looking forward to her next adventure and is committed to providing exceptional customer service while sharing the incredible journey of discovery with fellow travelers.

Deutsch

Rose Li ist eine erfahrene Expeditionsfachfrau mit einem vielseitigen Hintergrund in Innenarchitektur, Gastgewerbe und Polarführung.

Ursprünglich aus China stammend, schloss sie ihr Studium im Bereich Innenarchitektur am Wuhan College ab. Seit 2014 widmet sich ihre Karriere dem immersiven Reisen und begann auf internationalen Kreuzfahrtschiffen, wo sie ihre Fähigkeiten als Expeditionsguide, VIP-Service-Managerin und Head Cruise Ambassador in Asien und Europa entwickelte.

Im Jahr 2018 wechselte Rose in die Expeditionsbranche, in der ihre Leidenschaft für Geologie und Geschichte eine zentrale Rolle einnimmt. Sie arbeitet als Polar-Expeditionsguide und Vortragende und begeistert Gäste mit Einblicken in die Erdgeschichte und Landschaften. Ihr vielseitiges Können umfasst zudem Interpretation, das Fahren von Zodiacs sowie das Management von Gästeservices.

Als begeisterte Abenteurerin hat Rose über 50 Länder bereist. Außerhalb der Arbeit widmet sie sich kreativ und energiegeladent dem Skifahren und dem Veranstalten von Events. Sie freut sich stets auf ihr nächstes Abenteuer und setzt sich dafür ein, außergewöhnlichen Service zu bieten und die faszinierende Reise des Entdeckens mit ihren Mitreisenden zu teilen.

Matt Cheok – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deutsch

Matt ist ein Abenteuerfotograf und Videograf aus Sydney, Australien.

Seine Arbeit hat ihn an einige der abgelegensten und faszinierendsten Orte der Erde geführt – von den Polarregionen der Antarktis, Svalbard und Grönland bis hin zur majestätischen afrikanischen Savanne, den Binnensteppen Zentralasiens und den zerklüfteten Bergen Südamerikas.

In der Antarktis fotografiert Matt am liebsten die verspielten Eselspinguine sowie die dramatischen Polarlandschaften im Licht des späten Nachmittags.

Als Fotografie-Dozent teilt Matt gerne sein Fachwissen mit Mitreisenden und inspiriert sie dazu, sich stärker mit der Natur zu verbinden.

Sein beruflicher Werdegang war voller Überraschungen: Früher arbeitete er als Wirtschafts- und Versicherungsanwalt in Sydney, doch heute ist er deutlich glücklicher damit, seiner Leidenschaft für Fotografie und Abenteuer nachzugehen.

Wenn er nicht als Guide tätig ist, verbringt Matt viel Zeit beim Campen, auf Fernwanderungen, beim Genuss von reichlich Bialetti-Kaffee und beim Erkunden der Natur – kürzlich kehrte er von einer Reise in die Fan-Gebirge in Tadschikistan zurück.

An Bord trifft man Matt meist draußen an Deck, die Kamera in der Hand. Zögere nicht, ihn mit Fragen zur Fotografie anzusprechen oder einfach ein freundliches Gespräch mit ihm zu führen!

Isabelle Schulz – Expedition Guide



Isabelle Schulz is a marine biologist whose career has taken her from research expeditions in the Southern Ocean and Red Sea to leading research stations in the Arctic and Caribbean.

After studying Marine Biology in Germany, Isabelle completed her PhD in Marine Ecology at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), where she investigated the role of iron in regulating phytoplankton growth in the Southern Ocean.

She subsequently spent four years as a postdoctoral researcher at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia before moving to Brussels, where she worked in marine science policy, helping to strengthen collaboration in European marine research and ocean governance.

She later served as Station Leader of the French-German research station AWIPEV in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, where she spent 18 months coordinating logistics, supporting international research projects, ensuring safe field operations and contributing to long-term environmental monitoring programmes in the High

Arctic.

After her time in the Arctic, Isabelle decided it was time to warm up and moved to the Caribbean. As Field Station Manager at the Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) on Little Cayman, she oversaw the operations of a remote marine research station supporting research, conservation, and education programmes.

Today, Isabelle has come full circle, returning to the polar regions as an expedition guide after a couple of years in the tropics. She enjoys sharing stories from life and work in remote environments and inspiring others to appreciate the fascinating wildlife and landscapes of the polar regions

Deutsch

Isabelle Schulz ist Meeresbiologin, und ihre berufliche Laufbahn führte sie von Forschungsexpeditionen im Südlichen Ozean und im Roten Meer bis hin zur Leitung von Forschungsstationen in der Arktis und der Karibik.

Nach ihrem Studium der Meeresbiologie in Deutschland promovierte Isabelle in Meeresökologie am Alfred Wegener Institute, wo sie die Rolle von Eisen bei der Regulierung des Phytoplanktonwachstums im Südlichen Ozean untersuchte.

Anschließend arbeitete sie vier Jahre lang als Postdoktorandin an der King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi-Arabien, bevor sie nach Brüssel zog. Dort war sie im Bereich der meereswissenschaftlichen Politik tätig und trug dazu bei, die Zusammenarbeit in der europäischen Meeresforschung sowie die Meeressgovernance zu stärken.

Später übernahm sie die Leitung der französisch-deutschen Forschungsstation AWIPEV in Ny-Ålesund auf Svalbard. Dort koordinierte sie während eines 18-monatigen Aufenthalts die Logistik, unterstützte internationale Forschungsprojekte, sorgte für sichere Feldforschungseinsätze und wirkte an langfristigen Umweltbeobachtungsprogrammen in der Hocharktis mit.

Nach ihrer Zeit in der Arktis beschloss Isabelle, sich etwas wärmeren Regionen zuzuwenden, und zog in die Karibik. Als Leiterin der Forschungsstation des Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) auf Little Cayman verantwortete sie den Betrieb einer abgelegenen Meeresforschungsstation, die Forschungs-, Naturschutz- und Bildungsprogramme unterstützte.

Heute hat sich für Isabelle der Kreis geschlossen: Nach einigen Jahren in den Tropen ist sie als Expeditionsleiterin in die Polarregionen zurückgekehrt. Sie teilt mit Begeisterung Geschichten aus ihrem Leben und ihrer Arbeit in abgelegenen Regionen und inspiriert andere dazu, die faszinierende Tierwelt und die beeindruckenden Landschaften der Polargebiete zu schätzen.

Sven Joest – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

As an enthusiastic hobby photographer, and an increasingly keen birder since volunteering at a bird nature reserve on the island of Fehmarn, you'll most likely find him out on deck taking snaps of the

landscapes and the wildlife in his spare time during the voyage.

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

Deutsch

Sven ist ein Arktis-Enthusiast aus Bonn, Deutschland mit einer Leidenschaft und Expertise im Bereich der Geomorphologie. Während seines Grundstudiums der Geographie an der Universität Bonn war es sein Auslandssemester in Joensuu, Finnland das sein Interesse an der Wildnis des Nordens und der Arktis weckte.

Seitdem hat er seine Begeisterung für Abenteuer durch mehrere Reisen nach Nordnorwegen weiterverfolgt und setzt derzeit seine akademische Reise mit einem Masterstudium mit Schwerpunkt Friedens- und Konflikttransformation an der Arktischen Universität in Tromsø, Norwegen fort, der nördlichsten Universität der Welt. Von hier aus kann er seiner Leidenschaft für die Natur und die Kälte nachgehen, indem er Ski fährt, wandert und diese weiten und abgelegenen Gebiete erkundet.

Als begeisterter Hobbyfotograf und zunehmend begeisterter Vogelbeobachter, seitdem er ein Praktikum in einem Vogelschutzgebiet auf der Insel Fehmarn absolviert hat, werden Sie ihn in seiner Freizeit während der Reise höchstwahrscheinlich an Deck finden, um Fotos von der Landschaft und der Tierwelt zu machen.

Er freut sich darauf, sein Wissen und seine Erfahrung in allen Aspekten der polaren Weiten zu erweitern und lädt Sie ein, während der Reise mit ihm über Ihre Fragen oder Ihre eigenen polaren Interessen und Geschichten zu sprechen.

Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide



From early on Meike has been a passionate naturalist and traveller who just loves birds.

At the age of 7 she bought her first bird book. Being outdoors all the time, she wanted to learn more about the amazing creatures she encountered. Investigating and learning about nature and wildlife has been a passion ever since.

Meike has a master degree in film and television from the University of Utrecht. For the last 25 years she has been working as a television director. Her stories involve nature, wildlife and environmental topics. If not travelling, she is directing the prime-time wildlife television program Vroege Vogels.

When time permits, she volunteers as a nature guide for the Dutch institute for nature and education. As a teenager Meike started sailing the oceans but her true love for the life in the oceans began 14 years ago when she started working with Sea Shepherd on the mediateam.

Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing knowledge and the passion for this magical polar world with you.

Deutsch

Es war in den Wäldern der Niederlande das Meike in Ihrer Kindheit die Liebe zur Natur, Tier & Pflanzenwelt und Abenteuer entwickelt hat. Vögel hatten immer einen besonderen Platz in Ihrem Herzen.

Meike ist von Natur aus ein Storyteller. Andere teilhaben zu lassen, an Ihren Erfahrungen in der Natur war Teil Ihres Jobs als TV Director fürs Niederländische Fernsehen. In den Letzten 26 Jahren waren Die Themen gebiete Ihrer Sendungen Natur, Tier & Pflanzenwelt und Umwelt. Wenn die Zeit es erlaubt begleitet sie auch Exkursionen für das Niederländische Institute for Nature and Education.

In der Antarktis und Arktis gelingt es Ihr weiter outdoor Erfahrungen zu schaffen, die Menschen herauszufordern eine stärkeres Gefühl und Bewusstsein für unsere Umwelt zu entwickeln.

Meike arbeitet für OEX seit 2018 in der Nördlichen und Südlichen Hemisphäre. Durch Ihre Erfahrungen ist es ihr möglich das Wissen und die Leidenschaft für die magische Polarewelt mit Euch zu teilen.

Andi Schwertz – Expedition Guide



Andi was born in Budapest and grew up in Germany. Andi has always been fascinated by animals and nature, especially marine mammals ever since she was a child. She wanted to be a whale researcher, became a whale expert, without studying at a university, but through passion. She initially graduated in sociology, but then ran her own cocktail bar for 10 years. However, her enthusiasm for sea creatures never left her and she began to travel the world to be close to these fascinating animals and to observe them.

As a scuba and freediver, she was able to get particularly close to many whale species and experience adventures. For example, she has already swum with orcas three times in arctic Norway. She came to Oceanwide because she wanted to share her passion with heart and enthusiasm. She was already able to gain experience as a trainee in Antarctica in the spring of 2023. The polar regions with their special fauna exert a very special attraction on her. She is also interested in landscape photography and has great tips for successful mobile phone photography. Another passion of hers is yoga, which she also practices as a yoga instructor. She speaks English, German, Hungarian, and a little bit of Spanish and French. Andi is looking forward to more great adventures as a team member of Oceanwide!

Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide



Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentine photographer. She grew up in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Throughout the years she has found that one of her greatest passions is to travel to the wildest and remotest places around the world. So, traveling as much as she could, she found in the photography, a profession that gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations.

Nowadays she spends her life between “the poles”, working as a guide for Oceanwide Expeditions, and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island names Ilhabela in Brazil, working in tourism area.

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

She is also particularly interested in the history of the expeditions that discovered and mapped some of the places we are about to visit. This gives her the chance to share fascinating stories on board.

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

Deutsch

Valeria Sainz Herrera ist eine argentinische Fotografin. Sie wuchs in Buenos Aires, der Hauptstadt Argentiniens, auf. Im Laufe der Jahre entdeckte sie, dass eine ihrer größten Leidenschaften das Reisen in die wildesten und entlegensten Orte der Welt ist. Auf ihren zahlreichen Reisen fand sie in der Fotografie einen Beruf, der ihr die Freiheit gibt, an verschiedenen Orten zu leben und diese kennenzulernen.

Heute verbringt sie ihr Leben „zwischen den Polen“, indem sie als Reiseleiterin für Oceanwide Expeditions arbeitet. Den Rest des Jahres findet man sie auf einer wunderschönen Insel namens Ilhabela in Brasilien, wo sie im Tourismusbereich tätig ist.

Das Leben in verschiedenen Ländern ermöglicht es ihr, viele Aktivitäten auszuüben, die sie liebt – vor allem in der Natur. So geht sie beispielsweise gerne klettern und Skifahren in den argentinischen Anden Patagoniens oder wandert und zeltet in der zentralen Region Argentiniens. In Brasilien lernte sie außerdem neue Sportarten wie Tauchen, Kajakfahren und Segeln kennen.

Besonders interessiert sie sich auch für die Geschichte der Expeditionen, die jene Orte entdeckten und kartierten, die sie heute bereist. Das gibt ihr die Möglichkeit, an Bord spannende Geschichten zu erzählen und zu teilen.

Die Antarktis und die Arktis waren für sie schon immer ein Traum – und sind nun ein fester Bestandteil ihres Lebens geworden.

Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deutsch

Geboren auf einem Bauernhof in Zentralsdänemark, arbeitete er später viele Jahre als Fluglotse in Kopenhagen und lebt heute nahe der Küste auf dem Land südlich der Hauptstadt.

Ein großes Interesse an der Tierwelt begleitet ihn schon sein ganzes Leben, und der Großteil seiner Reisen führte ihn im Laufe der Jahre auf alle sieben Kontinente, wobei Tierleben und -verhalten stets im Mittelpunkt standen.

Ob beim Schwimmen mit Orcas im Norden Norwegens, beim Hundeschlittenfahren in Finnland, beim Erleben der reichen Tierwelt im südlichen Afrika oder beim Genießen der beeindruckenden Landschaften und Tierwelt in der Arktis und Antarktis – all diese Erfahrungen prägen ihn.

Jens ist ein geselliger und gesprächiger Mensch, der seine Erlebnisse gerne mit Gästen teilt – und seine Begeisterung hat ihn schon mehrfach dazu gebracht, Freunde und Kollegen als Guide zu begleiten.

Er hat zudem ein tiefes Interesse an den Polarexpeditionen – sowohl in der Arktis als auch in der Antarktis – die vor rund hundert Jahren von mutigen Männern unternommen wurden, um die letzten unbekannt Gebiete mit Schiffen, Flugzeugen, Luftschiffen und Hundeschlitten zu erkunden.

Wenn er nicht unterwegs ist, verbringt er seine Freizeit damit, die gewaltigen Greifvogelzüge in der Nähe seines Zuhauses zu beobachten, Mountainbike zu fahren, in der skandinavischen Wildnis zu trekken oder Segelflugzeuge zu fliegen – gemeinsam mit den Raubvögeln am Himmel.

Mit der Erfüllung seines Lebensstraums, Expeditionsguide zu sein, freut sich Jens mit Leidenschaft und Begeisterung auf eine weitere Saison in der Antarktis, um die großartigen Erlebnisse zu teilen, die alle auf einer Expeditionskreuzfahrt erwarten.

Hana Spickova – Expedition Guide



Hana is a chemist who is working the last two years at the University Centre on Svalbard. She comes originally from the Czech Republic and has spent the last 11 years in Norway.

Her love for nature and outdoor life brought her first to Tromsø in Northern Norway where she did her master degree while working as a northern light guide, photographer, dog sledding guide and dog handler. She likes to spend her free time in the mountains skiing, hiking, kayaking and diving. She spent two years traveling to Asia, Africa, South America and Patagonia. She worked as a volunteer in rescue stations for wild animals in Bolivia and Peru and as a humanitarian helper in Iraq, Rwanda and Ethiopia. After finishing her studies, she has been working as an analytical chemist in Norway. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for outdoor life brought her all the way to Svalbard where she enjoys ski touring, dog sledding and exploring new places on a snowmobile. She speaks Czech, English and Norwegian.

Deutsch

Hana ist Chemikerin und arbeitet seit zwei Jahren am Universitätszentrum auf Spitzbergen (Svalbard). Ursprünglich stammt sie aus der Tschechischen Republik und lebt seit elf Jahren in Norwegen.

Ihre Liebe zur Natur und zum Leben im Freien führte sie zunächst nach Tromsø in Nordnorwegen, wo sie ihren Masterabschluss machte. Währenddessen arbeitete sie als Nordlicht-Guide, Fotografin, Hundeschlittenführerin und Hundeführerin. Ihre Freizeit verbringt sie am liebsten in den Bergen – beim Skifahren, Wandern, Kajakfahren und Tauchen.

Zwei Jahre lang reiste sie durch Asien, Afrika, Südamerika und Patagonien. In Bolivien und Peru arbeitete sie ehrenamtlich in Rettungsstationen für Wildtiere und leistete humanitäre Hilfe in Irak, Ruanda und Äthiopien. Nach ihrem Studium war sie als analytische Chemikerin in Norwegen tätig. Ihre Neugier und Begeisterung für das Leben im Freien führten sie schließlich nach Spitzbergen, wo sie Skitouren, Hundeschlittenfahren und das Erkunden neuer Orte mit dem Schneemobil genießt.

Sie spricht Tschechisch, Englisch und Norwegisch.

Alexis Bellezze - Kayak Leader



Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the center of the country, in a rural area, then moved to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes and studied in the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors. Then moved to Cordoba where he spent 3 years in the Air Force Academy. After that he moved to Italy where he worked and finished a paragliding course, then returned to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he did a Residency in the ICU Service of the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal "Dick" Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2006 and 2008 he did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon at Milano, Italy. Then he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he works as a veterinarian surgeon and runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park. Since 2018 he has been working as a Polar Kayak Guide and Expedition Guide. He has guided in the Antarctic Peninsula many times, reaching the Antarctic Polar Circle, Svalbard, circumnavigated Spitzbergen, East coast of Greenland and many rivers and lakes in

Patagonia. During the last years he travelled the south and north of Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments like the jungle, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the desert of Atacama. Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak & mountain expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina, offering multiple days kayak trips in this pristine area.

Alexis is divorced, has 3 children and lives in Patagonia Argentina. He likes to cook for them with fire in the wilderness and go camping when is possible.

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Deutsch

Alexis Bellezze 1973 in San Luis, Argentinien geboren. Er verbrachte seine Kindheit in ländlicher Gegend im Zentrum des Landes, zog dann nach Mendoza in die Nähe der Zentralen Anden und studierte an der Army High School, wo er sich in die Berge und die Natur verliebte. Hiernach lebte er in Cordoba, wo er drei Jahre an der Air Force Academy verbrachte. Nach einem Aufenthalt in Italien, wo er arbeitete und einen Gleitschirmkurs absolvierte kehrte Alexis nach Argentinien zurück um sein Studium als Tierarzt zu beenden. 2006 absolvierte er einen Aufenthaltsstatus im ICU Service des Large Animal Hospital Royal "Dick" Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Schottland. 2006 und 2008 absolvierte er ein Praktikum als Tierarzt in Mailand, Italien. Danach zog es ihn zurück nach Villa La Angostura, einem abgelegenen Dorf mitten im Patagonischen Seenland, arbeitete als Tierarzt und gründete eine Kajakfirma im Nahuel Huapi Nationalpark. Seit 2018 arbeitet er als polar Kajak Guide und Expeditions Guide. Er hat auf der Antarktischen Halbinsel viele Reisen begleitet und den Antarktischen Polarkreis, Spitzbergen, die Ostküste Grönlands und viele Flüsse und Seen in Patagonien besucht. In den letzten Jahren reiste er als Wilderness First Responder Lehrer durch den Süden und Norden Chiles und Argentinien und arbeitete in verschiedenen Umgebungen wie dem Dschungel, dem patagonischen Gebirge, dem windigen patagonischen Estepa und der Wüste von Atacama. Seit 2014 ist Alexis Inhaber und Direktor von Langstrecken-Kajak- und Bergexpeditionen mit Sitz in Patagonien Argentinien und bietet mehrtägige Kajaktouren in diesem unberührten Gebiet an. Alexis ist geschieden, hat 3 Kinder und lebt in Patagonien Argentinien. Er übernachtet gerne mit seinen Kindern in der Wildnis. Alexis spricht fließend Spanisch, Italienisch und Englisch.

Chris Forrest – Kayak Guide



Retired from Joint Services Mountain Training as Chief Instructor.

Former Senior Instructor at Plas y Brenin and Instructor at Glenmore Lodge.

UIAGM Guide, Level 5 Kayak and Canoe Coach, Climber, skier, paddler and family man.

My motivation is developing people to enjoy the outdoor environment whether in the mountains, sea or journeying down rivers.

My career has taken me to far corner of the globe and yet still discovering new places.

Deutsch

Nach seinem Ausscheiden aus dem gemeinsamen militärischen Bergrtraining (*Joint Services Mountain Training*) war er dort als Chefausbilder tätig.

Zuvor arbeitete er als leitender Ausbilder am Plas y Brenin sowie als Ausbilder am Glenmore Lodge.

Er ist UIAGM-Bergführer, Kajak- und Kanutrainer der Stufe 5 sowie leidenschaftlicher Kletterer, Skifahrer, Paddler und Familienmensch.

Seine Motivation besteht darin, Menschen dabei zu unterstützen, die Natur aktiv zu erleben und zu genießen – sei es in den Bergen, auf dem Meer oder auf Flüssen und längeren Touren.

Seine berufliche Laufbahn hat ihn in die entlegensten Winkel der Erde geführt, und dennoch entdeckt er immer wieder neue faszinierende Orte.

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.

Deutsch

Das ist Brian, er ist 31 Jahre jung und lebt in den Niederlanden.

Brian ist ein echter Naturliebhaber. Seit seiner Kindheit ist er in der Natur unterwegs und hat in den letzten Jahren seine Leidenschaft dafür entdeckt.

In den letzten Jahren hat Brian verschiedene Kurse im Ausland absolviert.

Im Jahr 2021 begann er die Ausbildung zum Wander- und Überlebenslehrer, Wander- und Rucksackführer und internationalen Wildnisführer der Stufe 1. Eine entsprechende Ausbildung erhielt er in den Niederlanden, Frankreich und Kanada. Er absolvierte auch die Ausbildung von BICO, Baby it's cold out und Mountain 101 (University of Alberta, Kanada).

Nach Abschluss dieser Kurse stieg er in die Spezialisierung ein und absolvierte die Ausbildung zum Wildnisführer Stufe 2 und die Winterreise & Überleben Stufe 3 im Winter Kanada.

Als Prüfung hierfür musste er ein 48-stündiges Solo bei -30 (Celsius) über sich ergehen lassen.

Darüber hinaus ist es Brian eine große Leidenschaft, Flora und Fauna zu identifizieren. Er sucht gerne nach Tierspuren und -schildern und redet darüber.

Neben Oceanwide Expeditions arbeitet Brian bei zwei niederländischen Unternehmen als Überlebenslehrer und Wildnisführer. Diese bieten Wildnisreisen in skandinavische Länder, nach Frankreich, Polen, Kanada und Spanien an. Und ist Mitglied der Wilderness Guide Association und der Interpretive Guide Association.

Zusätzlich zu seiner Arbeit in der Außenwelt arbeitet Brian im Gesundheitswesen. In diesem Bereich verfügt er mittlerweile über 12 Jahre Erfahrung.

Linda Ceelen – Ships Doctor



After completing her Bachelor's degree in Biology, Linda obtained her Master's degree in Medicine in 2017. She then worked in surgery for a year, after which she primarily focused on emergency care and primary care. Over the past several years, she has regularly spent time abroad. In 2020, she obtained her diploma in Medicine in Conflict and Catastrophe.

In 2022, Linda embraced a new challenge by enrolling in the MSc in Extreme Medicine at the University of Exeter. She is currently working on her dissertation and expects to graduate this summer. As part of this master's programme, she has travelled over the past year to Everest Base Camp, as well as to Norway, Costa Rica, and Oman.

Outside of her professional work, Linda enjoys an active lifestyle. She is passionate about travelling, skiing, snowboarding, running, cycling, and swimming. When the pace slows, she unwinds with a good book or spends time tending to her vegetable garden.

Deutsch

Nach dem Abschluss ihres Bachelorstudiums in Biologie erwarb Linda im Jahr 2017 ihren Masterabschluss in Medizin. Anschließend arbeitete sie ein Jahr lang in der Chirurgie, bevor sie sich überwiegend auf die Notfallmedizin und die Primärversorgung konzentrierte. In den vergangenen Jahren hielt sie sich regelmäßig im Ausland auf. Im Jahr 2020 erwarb sie zudem ihr Diplom in „Medicine in Conflict and Catastrophe“.

Im Jahr 2022 stellte sich Linda einer neuen Herausforderung und begann den MSc-Studiengang in Extreme Medicine an der University of Exeter. Derzeit arbeitet sie an ihrer Abschlussarbeit und erwartet, diesen Sommer ihren Abschluss zu machen. Im Rahmen dieses Masterstudiums reiste sie im vergangenen Jahr unter anderem zum Everest Base Camp sowie nach Norwegen, Costa Rica und Oman.

Neben ihrer beruflichen Tätigkeit führt Linda einen aktiven Lebensstil. Sie reist leidenschaftlich gern und begeistert sich für Skifahren, Snowboarden, Laufen, Radfahren und Schwimmen. Wenn es etwas ruhiger zugeht, entspannt sie sich mit einem guten Buch oder widmet sich ihrem Gemüsegarten.



DAILY PROGRAM



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife - Summer Solstice

Date: 20/06/2026

Day: 1: Longyearbyen - Embarkation

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

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY for ALL GUESTS**.

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

18:15+/- We would like to invite you to **Captains Cocktails** in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days and you will meet your Expedition Team.

19:30 Dinner in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:30+/- The Expedition Team invites you to **Deck 3** the zodiac loading area to collect your Muck boots. You will be called by deck. Please bring your thick socks for the perfect fit and please listen for the announcements for your turn.

20:45 Kayakers, please meet Alexis and Chris in the lecture room on deck 5 for your kayak safety briefing.

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



DAILY PROGRAM



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife - Summer Solstice

Date: 21/06/2026

Day 2: Smeerenburg and Frambukta

Smeerenburg, also known as 'Blubber Town' is a former Dutch settlement which in 1617 was once the flourishing centre of the European Whale oil industry. At its peak 200 men worked here processing the blubber of Bowhead Whales. Nowadays, a herd of Atlantic Walrus call this place home which rest on its white sandy beaches.

06:45 Wake-up call. Good morning!

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

08:00 Please join us for AECO, Bear safety, and Zodiac safety briefing, in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY** so please join us straight after breakfast.

09:45+/- We invite the **Red Group** to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Smeerenburg.

10:00+/- We invite the **Blue Group** to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Smeerenburg.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

In the afternoon, we hope to land in a bay called Frambukta, a small Arctic bay located on the northwestern coast of Spitsbergen. It is a popular stop for expedition cruises, known for offering breathtaking views of the polar landscape and providing safe waters to observe local wildlife, such as the occasional lounging walrus.

14:30+/- We invite the **Blue Group** to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac landing at Frambukta.

14:45+/- We invite the **Red Group** to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise at Frambukta.

Please note that the groups will swap halfway through the afternoon

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

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.



DAILY PROGRAM



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife - Summer Solstice

Date: 22/06/2026

Day 3: Palanderbukta and Alkefjellet

06.00 We invite you to join us for some scouting to find wildlife on some islands.

07:45 Wake-up call.

08.00-09.00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

EXPEDITION MORNING

*In the morning, we plan to have an expedition morning around Palanderbukta. The fast ice around the landing site makes it a very good habitat for polar bears, and there are a couple of walrus haul outs in the area. Stand by for announcements and join us for the search. If we see the opportunity, we will attempt a zodiac cruise around the fast ice. If we do a zodiac cruise, we will load the **Blue Group** followed by the **Red Group**.*

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

In the afternoon we plan to cruise at Alkefjellet, one of the Arctic's most dramatic seabird cliffs. Towering basalt walls rise 100m from the sea, providing nesting grounds for 60,000 breeding pairs of Brünnich's guillemots during the summer months.

14:15 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet.

14:30 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet..

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

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

"When your feet are cold, cover your head." - Inuit proverb



DAILY PROGRAM



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife - Summer Solstice

Date: 23/06/2026

Day 4: Exploring the sea ice

During the day we plan to be exploring the sea ice to the North of Svalbard in search of wildlife.

We strongly encourage you to be on the outside decks, the bridge, and the bow to enjoy this spectacle spotting for wildlife. Listen for announcements regarding and wildlife sightings. If we have wildlife close by the announcements will only be made inside the ship to avoid disturbing the wildlife.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

10:00-12:00 During the morning join Marcello for his Arctic history museum in the lecture room.

If we have some time in the open ocean, or encounter adverse weather conditions, then we will have some lectures. This could be in the morning, or afternoon. Please listen for announcements in regard to this.

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

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

19:00 An arctic BBQ dinner will be served on the back of deck 5. Dress warmly to enjoy a meal outside with us!

"When your feet are cold, cover your head." - Inuit proverb



DAILY PROGRAM



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife - Summer Solstice

Date: 24/06/2026

Day 5: Overnight in the sea ice and at sea

Overnight we plan reposition the ship into another area of pack ice, and in the morning explore further the ice of the Arctic, before turning south and transiting towards Lilliehookbreen near Kongsfjorden. Enjoy the midnight sun above the ice floes as we sit quietly amongst the ice through the night. Once again listen for announcements regarding and wildlife spotting's and if we have wildlife close by the announcements will only be made inside the ship to avoid disturbing the wildlife.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:00-11:00 Marcelo will again have his Arctic history museum set up in the in the lecture room.

11:00 Please join Pierre for his lecture about polar bears!

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

16:00 Please join Bill for his lecture about Ice in the Arctic.

18:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

20:30 Please join Bill in the Observation Lounge for a journey discovering 'Paintings of the Sea'.

Throughout the afternoon and evening keep your eyes on the horizon as we transit south over the continental shelf of Svalbard for wildlife



DAILY PROGRAM



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife - Summer Solstice

Date: 25/06/2026

Day 6: Lillehookbreen and Signehamna

This morning we will be exploring the waters in front of Lilliehöökreen, one of Spitsbergen's largest glacier complexes. Stretching about 22 kilometres in length, it is an immense calving glacier that frequently fills the narrow Lilliehöökfjorden with floating icebergs. There is also a chance to see common and king eider ducks, seals, and beluga whales.

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:15 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise

08:30 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to Zodiac loading area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise

In the afternoon we hope to take you for a hike at Signehamna, a sheltered natural harbour in the Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park. It is historically renowned for being the hidden site of "Knospe" and "Nussbaum," two secret German World War II weather stations that were eventually discovered and destroyed by Norwegian forces in 1943. It is also a good place to see reindeer, and red throated divers on the small lakes.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:15 We invite the long hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Signehamna.

14:30 We invite the medium hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Signehamna.

14:45 We invite the short/leisurely hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Signehamna.

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

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

20:45 Join Adam in the Lecture Room for his presentation about Oceanwide's other destinations.

"All things considered there are only two kinds of men in the world; those that stay at home and those that do not, the latter are more interesting." - Rudyard Kipling



DAILY PROGRAM



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife - Summer Solstice

Date: 26/06/2026

Day 7: St Jonsfjorden and Poolepynten

St. Jonsfjorden is a 21-kilometer-long inlet on the western coast of Spitsbergen. Located on its northern shore is Gjertsenodden, a coastal lowland area renowned for its beautiful views of surrounding mountains, calving glaciers like Gaffelbreen, and its unique Arctic tundra ecosystems. There is also a trapper's hut that we can go inside of, and good chances of seeing reindeer, ptarmigan and seals.

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:15 We invite the long hikers to the shell doors for a hike at St Jonsfjorden

08:30 We invite the medium hikers to the shell doors for a hike at St Jonsfjorden

08:45 We invite the short hikers to the shell doors for a hike at St Jonsfjorden

At the end of the landing, we'll be offering a Polar Plunge for those feeling brave! Please wear your swimsuit underneath your expedition's waterproof gear. Towels will be provided, so do not bring the towel from your cabin along.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Today we plan to make a landing on Prins Karls Forland at a place called Poolepynten, the site of a walrus haul out. Besides walrus there is also a good chance of seeing reindeer on the tundra, and red throated divers in the small lakes behind the beach.

14:15 We invite the long hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Poolepynten

14:30 We invite the medium hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Poolepynten

14:45 We invite the short hikers to the shell doors for a hike at Poolepynten

When you return to the vessel, please leave your clean muck boots and zodiac life jackets on deck three between the two shell doors.

18:15 Join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the voyage slideshow. You will receive the slideshow by email after the voyage. Please make sure you have scanned the QR code and registered for the trip log.

19:00 A final farewell dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"One must never be in haste to end a day; there are too few of them in a lifetime". - Sir Francis Drake.



DAILY PROGRAM



North Spitsbergen Explorer – Versatile Landscapes, Sea ice and Wildlife

Date: 27/06/2026

Day 8: Longyearbyen

07:15 Wake-up call. Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before 7:30am.

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

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Longyearbyen, we will provide free busses to town and the airport. All luggage must be left outside your cabins by 7:30am and we will move it onto the pier.

For passengers on flight SK4497 at 19:45; please use a [Blue Luggage Tag](#). We will provide a bus to Svalbard Butikken, where you can spend the day in town. There will then be a shuttle from Svalbard Butikken to the airport at 18:00. Your luggage will be waiting for you at the airport.

For all other passengers take your luggage from the pier with you on the bus to town and hotels. Your luggage stays with you.

08:45+/- We invite all guests to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the right transport before boarding your bus.

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

"It's when you are safe at home that you're having an adventure. When you're having an adventure, you wish you were safe at home." - Thorton Wilder