



## East Spitsbergen

26<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – 3rd July 2026

On board *m/v Ortelius*



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



## Captain Ernesto Barria

[Chile]

and his international crew of 58

Chief Officer:	<b>Don Buren</b>	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	<b>Sander Witsenburg</b>	[The Netherlands]
Third Officer:	<b>Ian Vicente</b>	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Andrej Abakumov</b>	[Lithuania]
Second Engineer:	<b>Ionut Daraban</b>	[Romania]
Third Engineer:	<b>Twan Boeije</b>	[The Netherlands]
Chief Electrical Engineer	<b>Stefan Kirov</b>	[Bulgaria]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Volodymir Cherdnychenko</b>	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	<b>Charlotte Laumen</b>	[The Netherlands]
Head Chef:	<b>Heinz Hacker</b>	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	<b>Edward Nunag</b>	[Philippines]
Sous Chef	<b>Sergiy Sklyarov</b>	[Ukraine]
Bosun:	<b>Eniano Agarin</b>	[Philippines]:
Bartender:	<b>Raquel Queri</b>	[Philippines]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Adam Bourke</b>	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	<b>Beth Hitchcock</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Claudio Ghiglione</b>	[Italy]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Gabi Kolodko</b>	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>William Kennedy</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Marco Rosso</b>	[Italy]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Emily Clarke</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Werner Kruse</b>	[South Africa]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Enric Sangra</b>	[Catalonia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Tom van Hoof</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sarah Gerats</b>	[The Netherlands]
Dive Team Leader:	<b>Henrik Enckell</b>	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	<b>Sid Paul Dewfall</b>	[Gibraltar]
Dive Guide:	<b>Clara Iachetti</b>	[Argentina]
Dive Guide:	<b>Gonzalo Sabattini</b>	[Argentina]
Ship's doctor:	<b>Minke Twynstra</b>	[Netherlands]

WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

## Day 1 – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, Longyearbyen, Embarkation Day

12:00 GPS Position: 78°14.8' N / 015°03.2' E

Wind: SW-23 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temperature: +8 °C

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The day has come for our great Arctic adventure aboard Ortelius.

Some of us arrived a few days early while others landed a few hours before departure. Strolling the street of Longyearbyen, we take in the sights of this most remote village hanging on the edge of the world. Surrounded by mountains and lined with the ocean, hardly 40 km of asphalt, this little village has a warm feeling despite the chilling thermometer.

Soon it was time to board MV Ortelius. We were welcomed by the expedition team who took care that our luggage made its way to our rooms for the trip. Charlotte and Vova were warm as they welcomed us on board and pointed us towards our rooms.

We gathered soon after in the lounge for the safety introduction. We donned our survival vests and followed the orders of the crew during the emergency exit drill. As soon as this was done, we set sail south taking in the views of Adventfjord and Isfjord. Whale blows made an appearance, and many birds accompanied the ship.

Adam, our Expedition leader, introduced the trip and settled our minds on what the plan was. The plan is that there is no plan and that we will make it as we go, taking into consideration the weather, and several other crucial variables.

Our first dinner was served in the dining room where we met our fellow passengers for a meal that set the tone for the rest of the trip.

Later our closest companions, the famed Muck Boots, were distributed before we set this long day to rest.

## Day 2 – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, Burgerbukta and Treskelen

08:00 GPS Position: 77°05.4'N / 015°02.1'E

Wind: NE-1 • Sea: Glassy • Weather: Low Clouds • Air Temperature: 3°C

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Our day began with a gentle wake-up call at 07:15 from our Expedition Leader, Adam, who welcomed us to Burgerbukta situated in Hornsund, while updating us on the weather and outside temperature. After breakfast, we gathered in the lounge for the mandatory AECO and polar bear safety briefing, highlighting the importance of safety in the Arctic, the role of our expedition guides carrying rifles, and the strict protocols in place to protect both guests and, of course, the polar bears.

Rain greeted us as we prepared for our first excursion, adding to the dramatic atmosphere. *Ortelius* felt very small beneath the towering mountains either side of the fjord, the dark cliffs streaked with vivid red iron deposits while the upper slopes disappeared into low cloud.

We boarded the Zodiacs for a two-hour cruise through Burgerbukta, towards the glacier. As the morning progressed, the rain eased and visibility remained clear. We cruised slowly past countless waterfalls cascading from the mountainsides while observing a variety of Arctic birdlife, including black-legged kittiwakes, common eider ducks, black guillemots, and Arctic skuas. A few lucky guests even spotted puffins briefly resting on the water.



It was a magical morning, made even more memorable when we witnessed a small glacier calving. In the stillness of the Arctic, the crack of breaking ice echoed, reminding us of the immense power of the landscape surrounding us.

Back onboard, we enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch while *Ortelius* repositioned to Treskelen for the afternoon's landing. As we waited to disembark, an exciting announcement came over the PA system: the guides ashore, who were scouting the landing site for polar bears, had spotted a group of beluga whales. Many of us were able to watch these beautiful white whales

from the ship and from the Zodiac shuttles on the way to shore—a wonderful start to the afternoon.

Once ashore, we were divided into our long and medium hiking groups and received a briefing on the routes ahead. We set off with our guides, eager to explore the tundra. When 40 minutes into the hike came the radio call “Polar bear, polar bear, polar bear!” The guides remained calm and through radio communication it was confirmed Claudio had spotted a polar bear swimming close to the shore where we had landed. An evacuation was put into motion. The bear was watched closely as it started swimming away from the landing site whilst Adam organised the evacuation by zodiac back to the ship. An exciting twist to our afternoon plans. Once back on the safety of *Ortelius* we gathered on the bridge and outer decks where we were able to watch the polar bear swimming in the water before it walked across the shoreline, it was a healthy-looking bear. Although its pace seemed casual, it was impressive to see the distance that was covered effortlessly. It was the perfect end to an amazing first day in the Arctic.

Still buzzing with excitement, we gathered in the lounge, where Emily gave a presentation on polar bears. Adam then recapped the day's adventures and outlined the plans for tomorrow. The room was filled with applause and an unmistakable sense of enthusiasm. Following



another delicious buffet dinner, many of us relaxed in the bar, reflecting on an extraordinary first day before turning in for the night as *Ortelius* continued northeast towards Kapp Lee.

### **Dive One — Burgerbukta (Checkout Dive)**

The voyage's diving opened at Burgerbukta with the customary checkout dive, the dive where everyone confirms their kit is working and travelling well before we commit to the more remote sites ahead. Conditions were cloudy and visibility was poor, but that mattered little for the job at hand. This dive is about systems and comfort rather than scenery.

The team worked through their equipment methodically. The main task for most was dialling in weighting, getting properly balanced for the drysuits and the thick undergarments that cold Svalbard water demands. By the end everyone was settled, comfortable and happy with their setup. A quiet, useful start, and exactly what a checkout dive should be.

### **Dive Two — Treskelen (Evacuated)**

The second dive at Treskelen did not go as planned, though it gave us a story worth telling. We kitted up on the zodiacs and ran through the final checks, and a few of the team had already rolled in and begun their descent when the call came over the radio. A polar bear had been spotted at the landing site, and entering the water nearby. Operations were stopped at once. Those already below were brought back up, everyone was accounted for, and the divers were recovered to the zodiacs quickly and calmly.

There is no arguing with a polar bear, and a recall like this is a reminder of exactly whose territory we are diving in. The disappointment faded fast. As we sailed back toward the ship, a pod of belugas surfaced near us, their pale backs rolling at the surface. We watched them for a short while before they moved on. Not the dive we expected, but a good afternoon all the same.

## Day 3 – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, Kapp Lee and Sundneset

12:00 GPS Position: 78°07.5'N / 020°48.4'E

Wind: WSW-2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +5°C

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A smooth sea awaited us on the morning of Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. During the night we had rounded Spitsbergen Island and navigated across Storefjorden, the shallow sea which separates the main island of Spitsbergen from Edgeøya and Barentsoya on the southeast.

Edgeøya is the third-largest island in the Svalbard archipelago, it is known for its dramatic Arctic landscapes, extensive glaciers, and rich wildlife, including polar bears, Svalbard reindeer, walruses, and numerous seabird colonies.

Our original plan had an unexpected turn, since a bear was spotted on a small rocky island near Dolerittneset which was meant to be our activity site for the afternoon. Quickly the expedition team got ready and with the help of the bridge and deckhand, eight zodiacs were dropped into the frigid waters of Kapp Lee and we headed out towards the shore. The bear in the meantime had decided to swim across the narrow strait towards Dolerittneset and started to walk around across the tundra. Occasionally spooking the calm reindeer which were pasturing, and in few occasions taking a roll to scratch its back on the ground.



After a good half an hour observing the bear from a respectful distance, we headed through the small islands where scattered groups of walrus were feeding and surfacing here and there. It was so interesting to be able to observe these massive pinnipeds, swiftly moving through the murky waters of Kapp Lee. Observing their big, rounded eyes and their long white tusks.

Walrus are iconic Arctic marine mammals known for their long tusks, whisked snouts, and thick layers of blubber that help them survive in icy waters. They spend much of their time resting on sea ice or coastal beaches and feed mainly on clams and other seafloor invertebrates. Around Svalbard, walrus are a protected species and are often seen hauled out in groups along remote shores.

Our zodiac cruise ended exactly in front of the hauling site of this colony at Kapp Lee, a place which also holds an important mark in the history of Oceanwide Expedition as we learned later during the recap.

Back for lunch, MV Ortelius repositioned towards the southwestern corner of Barentsoya where we landed at Sundneset. A place where the Würzburger Hütte is located. Built in the 1959 by a German geo-scientific expedition led by Julius Budel, it served as a shelter for trappers and scientific expeditions operating in this remote Arctic region. Today, the hut is a protected cultural heritage site that offers a glimpse into the harsh conditions faced by those who lived and worked in Svalbard's wilderness.



Divided into small groups we headed off towards the vast and windswept Arctic tundra where we could observe Svalbard Reindeer grazing, long-tailed ducks and King Eider lingering on the snow melting ponds. The long hikers group moved North and using a small ravine climbed on top of Fuglehallet enjoy magnificent views over Freemansundet and Edgeoya, whilst the medium groups enjoyed a nice hike on the doleritic platform in between small lakes dotted with wildlife and solifluction areas dominated by thick mud.

Eventually a bit after 6pm we were back to the ship and reunited in the lounge for the daily recap and the plans for the following day. Getting to know that we were heading to the sea ice the next day made our trip filled with excitement.

## Day 4 – Monday 29th June, Ice Day

12:00 GPS Position: 78°50.0'N / 024°29.9'E

Wind: NW-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Foggy • Air Temperature: +1°C

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Good morning, good morning, good morning in the ice. During the night we sailed through the fog towards the East. When we wake up there is no land in sight - not only because of the fog but also because we are far away from the islands. We have sailed away from land to an area not often visited, as the ice charts have indicated that there is still a large area of pack ice here - the last bit of the ice in the East, before it disappears for the summer.



We will be surrounded by ice the entire day - larger and smaller floes of weathered ice. All the ice we see is single year pack ice - it has formed and will disappear within a season. Some floes have melting ponds on them, intensely blue little pools - others have lots of holes forming. In general, they are close to disappearing - at the same time that they are still thick enough to carry large bearded Polar bears. On some of the floes we clearly

see tracks - but the bears stay potential for today - here in their preferred surroundings. We see several seals - both in the water and on the ice - and lots of fulmars as well as some ivory gulls.

Throughout the morning, we encounter many yellowish ice floes - some are colored due to silt and sand present in the places where they were formed, others are exposing the algae that have formed under and in the ice when the first light returned after the Polar night. We see ice ridges, in different forms and sizes - and encounter an occasional big iceberg - calved from a glacier and frozen into the sea ice.

None of the ice is a problem for Ortelius, with her ice class 1A super. She moves calm and solid through the ice, and we enjoy the day on our 92 meters long world of steel.

During the morning the fog is slightly lifting - expanding our view for moments to fully surround us again in the late afternoon, accompanied by a little light rain.

In the morning Marco gathers us in the lounge for a lecture about sea ice - how it forms, moves, changes, and what on a large scale it means for the oceans and our climate. In the afternoon Gabi takes us on a voyage through our relation to and fascination with the Polar bears through different time periods and cultures.



This day we entered the sea ice at 78°59.37'N, 025°04.48'E, and traveled Southeast through the ice. In the late afternoon we turned more to the Northwest and left the ice behind us at 79°02.42'N, 025°11.73'E. Before we leave the ice we all gather to listen to our daily recap - which today presents Tom sharing inside information about the 4 Dutch researchers that overwintered at Kapp Lee in '68-'69, after which Emily tells us about the Walrus we saw at the same place yesterday.

Throughout the night we are heading West to make our way back to the East coast of the main island of Spitsbergen, sailing through Freemansundet, the straight between Barentsøya in the North and Edgeøya in the South. We are leaving the ice and fog behind us, moving towards clear forecast skies and solid ground.



## Day 5 – Tuesday 30th June, Boltodden

12:00 GPS Position: 77°29.6'N / 018°10.4'E

Wind: SW-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temperature: 6°C

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The day began with a 07:15 wake-up call, followed by a hearty breakfast buffet served in the dining room. With another exciting day of exploration ahead, everyone was eager to head ashore and discover more of Svalbard's extraordinary landscapes.



Our morning landing took us to Boltodden, on the east coast of Spitsbergen. This remarkable site is known for its striking sedimentary rock formations, creating a spectacular Arctic landscape that is ideal for hiking and exploration.

Guests had the opportunity to choose between a leisurely walk around the landing area or a longer all-day hike, complete with a

packed lunch enjoyed in the wilderness. As we explored the ancient terrain, one of the highlights was searching for fossilized dinosaur footprints. Millions of years ago, herbivorous dinosaurs known as ornithomimids roamed this region, and their footprints, preserved in the rocks, offer a fascinating glimpse into Svalbard's distant past. Walking where dinosaurs once walked is an unforgettable experience that makes Boltodden one of the archipelago's most unique landing sites.

After lunch on board—or a packed lunch for those joining the full-day hike—the afternoon was dedicated to a Zodiac cruise along the spectacular glacier front of Kvalbreen, where the glaciers Indrebreen and Kvalbreen meet the sea. Towering walls of ice, sculpted into deep shades of blue, formed a dramatic backdrop as we carefully navigated through a maze of floating icebergs.

The stillness of the fjord, broken only by the occasional crack of moving ice or the calls of Arctic birds, created a truly magical atmosphere. Every iceberg displayed its own unique shape and colour, reflecting the ever-changing light of the High Arctic. Cruising so close to these magnificent glaciers offered a powerful reminder of the beauty and dynamism of this polar environment.





Back on board, we gathered in the lounge for our daily recap, where the Expedition Team reviewed the day's highlights and introduced the plans for tomorrow's adventures.

The perfect ending to an extraordinary day came in the evening with a barbecue dinner on the helideck. Surrounded by the spectacular Arctic scenery, guests enjoyed delicious food in the fresh polar air while music filled the deck. As the evening unfolded, many joined in the dancing, celebrating another unforgettable day of adventure in Svalbard. Sharing great food, laughter, and music beneath the endless Arctic sky was a wonderful way to conclude a day filled with exploration, wildlife, glaciers, and remarkable landscapes.

### **Dive Three — Boltodden**

Dive 3 gave the team a dive beneath the bird cliffs of Boltodden. Visibility was poor, the water, thick with the suspended matter that comes with productive Arctic seas, but there was plenty to hold our attention once we settled in and worked the terrain slowly.

The rock walls and boulders were well covered with life. Anemones were the standout, dotted across the surfaces in good numbers and feeding in the current. Crustaceans worked the cracks and ledges, and a sculpin sat tucked among the rocks, holding its ground in that motionless way they have until you are almost on top of it. A reminder that visibility and abundance are not the same thing. The murk that frustrates the eye is the same plankton load that feeds everything we came to see.

### **Dive Four — Boltodden**

The second dive at Boltodden continued under the same cliffs, and the team was diving comfortably now, reading the conditions well. Visibility remained low, but by this point everyone had adjusted to working close and slow, letting the seabed come to them.

The life held up across the dive. More anemones across the rock, crustaceans busy among the ledges, and the cold, productive character that defines diving here. Boltodden may not have offered the clear blue water of the brochures, but it delivered exactly the kind of cold, busy, life-filled diving that Svalbard does best. Two dives in at the same site, and a good day below the cliffs to show for it.

## Day 6 – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, Bamsebu and Recherchebreen

12:00 GPS Position: 77°31.2'N / 014°39.1'E

Wind: W-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 9°C

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The gentle chime of the 07:45 wake-up call broke the silence of the Arctic morning, welcoming us to a new day of exploration in the remote reaches of East Spitsbergen. As the ship glided smoothly into the southern shores of Van Keulenfjorden, part of the larger Bellsund system, the landscape outside our windows revealed a dramatic, raw beauty. After a hearty breakfast, the expedition team prepped the zodiacs, and by 09:15, our boots hit the pebbled beach of Bamsebu.



**Bamsebu** is a place where history, wildlife, and geology interlace into a bittersweet narrative. Stepping onto the shoreline, we were immediately confronted by the stark, sobering remnants of the 1930s beluga whaling era. Stretching across the beach were thousands of sun-bleached white bones—the tragic, enduring remains of hundreds of beluga whales harvested nearly a century ago. Walking among these skeletal ruins felt like stepping through a poignant open-air museum, a visceral reminder of humanity's historical exploitation of the far north.

Yet, nature has a profound way of reclaiming what was lost. Moving past the historic site, we walked around the sweeping curve of the bay, where the tundra was waking up to the brief Arctic summer. It didn't take long for the local wildlife to show itself. Lounging on the shoreline rocks were several harbor seals, their sleek bodies glistening as they watched us with quiet curiosity. Further inland, framed against the dramatic, jagged slopes of the fjord, we spotted four Svalbard reindeer. Distinctly shorter and more compact than their mainland cousins, these resilient creatures grazed peacefully on the sparse moss and lichen, completely unbothered by our presence. It was a beautiful contrast life thriving alongside the remnants of the past.

By 12:30, we were back aboard for lunch, sharing stories of the morning's walk. But the Arctic was far from finished with us. By 14:30, the zodiacs were lowered once more into the icy water for a highly anticipated cruise at Recherchebreen.



**Recherchebreen** is a massive, receding glacial front that feeds into a secluded lagoon. Navigating through a maze of brash ice and beautifully sculpted blue icebergs, our zodiac drivers expertly guided us toward the towering wall of the glacier. The atmosphere was electric, filled with the snap, crackle, and pop of ancient air escaping the

melting ice.

Suddenly, a crackle of excitement rippled across the VHF radios. A polar bear had been spotted. Resting on a patch of land near the glacial fringe was a beautiful female polar bear. To our delight and amusement, she was fast asleep. For the entire afternoon, she remained a picture of absolute serenity—a white silhouette against the dark moraine, occasionally shifting her weight or lifting a paw, completely untroubled by the world. To witness the apex predator of the Arctic in such a peaceful, vulnerable state was a rare privilege that left everyone in hushed awe.

While the "Queen of the Arctic" slumbered, the waters in front of the glacier front remained alive with activity. Curious faces popped up through the glassy surface of the lagoon. We enjoyed spectacular encounters with bearded seals, identifiable by their prominent, beautifully curled whiskers and large bodies resting on distant ice floes. Closer to the zodiacs, the smaller, elusive shapes of what were potentially ringed seals darted through the water, peeking up at us before diving back into the frigid depths.



Returning to the ship by late afternoon, the energy on board was triumphant. At 18:30, we gathered in the observation lounge on Deck 6 for our daily recap. The expedition team

provided deeper insights into the behavior of the seals we encountered and the history of the beluga whalers at Bamsebu.

As we moved to the dining room for a beautifully plated dinner, the midnight sun continued to cast its golden, perpetual glow over the Svalbard archipelago. Today, the Arctic granted us a perfect harmony of history, glacial majesty, and unforgettable wildlife encounters—a day that will remain etched in our memories forever.

### **Dive Five — Bamsebu**

Bamsebu turned out to be one of the standout dives of the voyage. Before we even entered the water, the bay gave us something to remember. A juvenile bearded seal was hauled out on a rock inside the bay, and we watched it for a moment before it slipped away and was gone well before we approached. A good omen for what followed.

Visibility opened to around five metres, a real improvement on the sites before it, and that extra clarity made all the difference. The dive ran through dense kelp, the fronds swaying with the surge and holding a whole community within them. Sea stars were everywhere, draped across the rock and the kelp holdfasts in good numbers. Crabs worked the bottom and the crevices, picking their way through the tangle.

This was cold-water diving at its best. The kelp forest, the clearer water, and the abundance of life across the seabed came together into exactly the kind of dive that reminds you why you pull on a drysuit in the Arctic. Everyone surfaced happy. A super dive, and a fitting one to log among the best of the trip.

### **Dive Six — Cancelled (Ice Floe Afternoon)**

For the second time this voyage a polar bear made the decision for us. A bear was spotted in front of our intended dive site, so operations were called off before anyone entered the water. We stayed to watch it for a while, which is never a poor way to spend an afternoon in Svalbard, before turning toward the glacier and the icebergs drifting in the lagoon.

What followed was not a dive but a fine afternoon all the same. We worked in among the ice, and divers took the chance to jump from the floes and play around in the water, cameras out, making the most of the extraordinary setting. The bergs, the glacier behind them, and the clear cold water made for a memorable few hours. Then it was back to the ship, no dive logged but nobody complaining.

## Day 7 – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, Salmaneset and Coles Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 78°06.3'N / 014°59.0'E

Wind: NE-1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partly Sunny • Air Temperature: +9°C

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The gentle chime of the 07:15 wake-up call broke the stillness of the ship, summoning us to a day that would span hundreds of millions of years of Earth's history. After a hearty breakfast buffet, we suited up and boarded the Zodiacs, cutting through the calm waters toward **Salmaneset**. This striking spit of land divides two massive fjords, dominated by dramatic, vertically tilted rock layers that stand like giant stone pages of an ancient book.



Stepping ashore, we found ourselves walking precisely along the Permian-Triassic contact. The air felt heavy with the weight of deep time; we were literally standing on the boundary of the Great Dying—the most severe mass extinction event in our planet's history. Looking down at the weathered shale and limestone, the past came alive. We discovered an abundance of beautifully preserved marine fossils, running our fingers over the intricate, stony fans of bryozoa, the delicate shells of brachiopods, and the stacked, coin-like stems of crinoids. These creatures had thrived in a warm, primordial sea long before Spitsbergen migrated to the high Arctic.

Before leaving this geological monument, we shifted from ancient history to immediate, adrenaline-fueled reality: the Polar Plunge. Stripping down to our swimwear on the rocky shore,

we braved the near-freezing Arctic waters. The shocking, electric cold took our breath away, but the adrenaline rush and the triumphant cheers of our fellow expeditioners made the icy dip unforgettable.

By afternoon, the Arctic treated us to a spectacular change of pace. Under a brilliantly sunny sky, the Zodiacs dropped us at **Colesbukta**, a hauntingly beautiful abandoned Soviet mining settlement. Active until 1962 as a strategic port to ship coal from nearby Grymant, it now stands as a frozen capsule of the Cold War era.

The bright sunshine cast long, dramatic shadows across the tundra as we hiked through the remains of the town. We explored the weathered timber of old huts, crumbling brick buildings,

and rusting railway tracks that once groaned under the weight of coal cars. Nature is slowly reclaiming the site, with bright green mosses and delicate tundra flowers carpeted around decaying machinery. Walking through these silent structures offered a surreal window into the lives of the miners who once braved the brutal polar winters here.



Returning to the ship, the atmosphere shifted to one of warm camaraderie. At 18:45, we gathered in the lounge for the Captain's Cocktails. Clanking glasses with Captain Barria and the expedition team, we shared a farewell drink and looked back on the incredible journey behind us. As the expedition leaders outlined the disembarkation plans for Longyearbyen tomorrow, a collective sense of gratitude filled the room. We concluded this unforgettable day with a magnificent Farewell Dinner on

Deck 4, celebrating the wild, untamed beauty of Spitsbergen that will undoubtedly linger in our memories forever.

### **Dive Seven — Sagaskjeret (Salmaneset)**

Our penultimate dive took us between the towering bird cliffs of Alkhornet, one of western Svalbard's great landmarks and the peninsula of Salmaneset. We had intended to dive near the landing site at Salmaneset but drove out to Sagaskjeret instead, a call that paid off with an excellent dive.

Entering the water, divers descended through drifting jellyfish and delicate comb jellies before reaching a flourishing kelp forest below. Following the rocky wall, the seabed opened into a colourful Arctic community of anemones, sea urchins, crabs and countless other invertebrates covering every available surface.

It was a superb dive and a reminder of how much life these waters hold. Sagaskjeret delivered exactly what we hoped for and left the team buzzing on the ride back to the ship.

### **Dive Eight — Colesbukta**

The final dive of the expedition took us out to the eastern tip of Colesbukta. There was swell running at the surface, so we dropped beneath it and found calmer water below, the usual reward for getting down and out of the movement up top.

As at so many of our sites this week, the seabed was thick with kelp, the fronds working back and forth with the surge. Jellyfish drifted through the water around us, and the dive settled into that quiet, absorbing rhythm that the kelp forests here always seem to bring. A steady, enjoyable dive to close on.

And what a week of diving it had been. From the checkout dive at Burgerbukta to this last drop at Colesbukta, Svalbard had shown us every side of its underwater world. We had kelp forests and glacier-fed lagoons, sea stars and anemones carpeting the rock, and more than one

afternoon rearranged by a polar bear that had every right to be there. Poor visibility on some days, five clear metres on others, and always the cold, productive richness that defines diving in the High Arctic. As we packed our equipment away for the final time, we did so with a deeper appreciation of this remarkable place and memories that will stay with us long after the expedition has ended.

## Day 8 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Longyearbyen, Disembarkation Day

07:00 GPS Position: 78°14.7' N / 015°33.5' E

Wind: SW-2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature +7°C

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What a bittersweet morning as we are woken up for the last time with Adam's soothing voice. The weather peaceful, the air full of memories fleeting before us as we wake in our little world on the edge of the world.

Today the dream ends and reality takes us back in its embrace. We shake hands, exchange stories and laughs over breakfast and a warm cup of coffee ready to face the tears and the joy and the grief.

It has been a joy being part of this trip, to be continued soon on other latitudes, until then Fairwell to ye explorers.

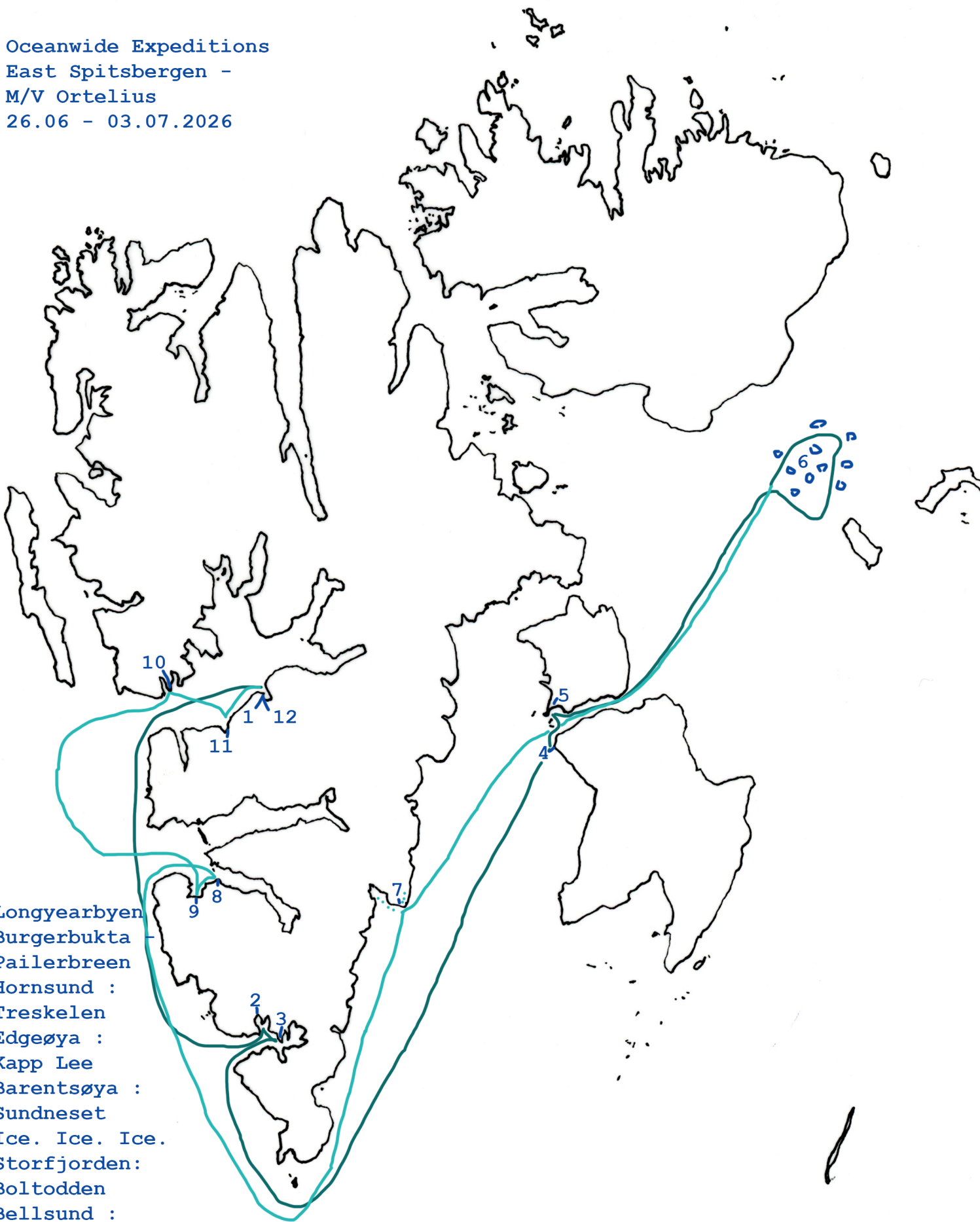


**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 825 nautical miles**

**Most northern point sailed: 79°02.42'N, 025°11.73'E**

## Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team

Oceanwide Expeditions  
East Spitsbergen -  
M/V Ortelius  
26.06 - 03.07.2026



- 1 Longyearbyen
- 2 Burgerbukta -  
Pailerbreen
- 3 Hornsund :  
Treskelen
- 4 Edgeøya :  
Kapp Lee
- 5 Barentsøya :  
Sundneset
- 6 Ice. Ice. Ice.
- 7 Storfjorden:  
Boltodden
- 8 Bellsund :  
Bamsebu
- 9 Recherchefjorden
- 10 Isfjorden :  
Ymerbukta
- 11 Colesbukta
- 12 Longyearbyen

## Birds and Mammals of Svalbard - OTL 06

English	Latin	Dutch	German	26/Jun	27/Jun	28/Jun	29/Jun	30/Jun	01/Jul	02/Jul
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Ijsduiker	Eistaucher							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Roodkeelduiker	Sterntaucher						X	X
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Noordse stormvogel	Eissturmvogel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Jan-van-gent	Basstöpel							
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Wilde zwaan	Singschwan							
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Taigarietgans	Saatgans							
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kleine rietgans	Kurzschnabelgans						X	X
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Brandgans	Weisswangengans			X		X	X	X
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Kolgans	Blässgans							
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Grauwe gans	Graugans							
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Rotgans	Ringelgans							
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Sneeuwgans	Schneegans							
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Smient	Pfeifente							
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Wintertaling	Krickente							
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Wilde eend	Stockente							
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Pijlstaart	Spießente							
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Kuifeend	Reiherente							
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eidereend	Eiderente		X	X		X	X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Konings eider	Prachteiderente			X				
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Stellers eider	Scheckente							
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Ilseend	Eisente			X				X
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Zwarte zee-eend	Trauerente							
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Brielduiker	Schellente							
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpensneeuwhoen	Alpenschneehuhn							
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Scholekster	Austernfischer							X
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Bontbekplevier	Sandregenpfeifer						X	X
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goudplevier	Goldregenpfeifer							
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Drieteenstrandloper	Sanderling							
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Gestreepte strandloper	Graubruststrandläufer							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Paarse strandloper	Meerstrandläufer		X	X		X	X	
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Kanoetstrandloper	Knutt							X
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Bonte strandloper	Alpenstrandläufer							
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenwulp	Regenbrachvogel							
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Tureluur	Rotschenkel							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steenloper	Steinwälzer							
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Rosse franjepoot	Thorshühnchen							
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Grauwe franjepoot	Odinshühnchen			X				
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Middelste jager	Spatelraubmöwe			X				
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Kleine jager	Schmarotzerraub-möwe		X	X		X	X	X
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Kleinste jager	Falkenraubmöwe							

Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Grote jager	Skua							
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Vorkstaartmeeuw	Schwalbenmöwe							
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Kokmeeuw	Lachmöwe							
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Stormmeeuw	Sturmmöwe							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Grote Burgemeester	Eismöwe			X	X		X	X
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Kleine burgemeester	Polarmöwe							
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Zilvermeeuw	Silbermöwe							
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Kleine mantelmeeuw	Heringsmöwe							X
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Grote mantelmeeuw	Mantelmöwe							
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Drieteenmeeuw	Dreizehenmöwe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rossmeeuw	Rosenmöwe							
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Ivoormeeuw	Elfenbeinmöwe				X			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Noordse stern	Küstenseeschwalbe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Zeekoet	Trottellumme							
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dikbekzeekoet	Dickschnabellumme	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Zwarte zeekoet	Gryllteiste	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Kleine alk	Krabbentaucher		X					
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papegaaiduiker	Papageitaucher	X	X					
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Boerenwaluw	Rauchschwalbe							
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Witte Kwikstaart	Bachstelze							
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Graspieper	Wiesenpieper							
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Tapuit	Steinschmätzer							
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Merel	Amsel							
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Sneeuwgorst	Schneeammer			X		X	X	X
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Barmsijs	Birkenzeisig							
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Ijsgors	Spornammer							
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Kramsvogel	Wacholderdrossel							
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Koperwiek	Rotdrossel							
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Keep	Bergfink							
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Giervalk	Gerfalke							

## MAMMALS

English	Latin	Dutch	German	26/Jun	27/Jun	28/Jun	29/Jun	30/Jun	01/Jul	02/Jul
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walrus	Walross			X		X	X	
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Baardrob	Bartrobbe		X	X			X	
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrob	Ringelrobbe				X			
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Zadelrob	Sattelrobbe							
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klapmuts	Klappmütze							
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Gewone zeehond	Seehund				X		X	X
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Dwergvinvis	Zwergwal						X	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Noordse vinvis	Seiwal							
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwe vinvis	Blauwal							

Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Gewone vinvis	Finnwal	X						
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Bultrug	Buckelwal							
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Groenlandse walvis	Grönlandwal							
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Potvis	Pottwal							
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narwal							
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Butskop	Entenwal (Dögling)							
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Orka	Schwertwal (Orca)							
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Witsnuitdolfijn	Weisschnauzendelphin							
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>	Beloega	Weisswal	X	x		X	X	x	
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Ijsbeer	Eisbär		X	x			x	
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Poolvos	Polarfuchs			X			x	
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>platyrhynchus</i>	Rendier	Svalbard Renntier			X			x	x
Sibling vole	<i>Microtus rossiaemeridionalis</i>	Oostelijke veldmuis	Südfeldmaus							
Short tailed Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Aardmuis	Erdmaus							

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# Adam Burke – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

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

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# Beth Hitchcock – Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Claudio Ghiglione – Asst. Exp. Leader

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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.

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# Gabi Kolodko – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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# William Kennedy – Expedition Guide

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William was brought up in the west coast of France in an Irish household. From a very young age he travelled to visit relatives on the emerald isle and the bug for discovering other cultures and lifestyles caught him.

Curiosity brought him all over Europe, working as a farmer in Iceland, building cabins in the Pyrenees, bartending in Scotland, carpentering in Norway and becoming a kitchen chef in Sweden. While living yet another adventure on the remote archipelago of Svalbard, he discovered the polar world and its famous adventurers.

He since then has been sailing the Arctic and Antarctic waters, blending his passion for history, storytelling, and travel by shining the light on unsung polar heroes, events and adventures.

When not on the ships he lives in Malmö, Sweden where he found a place to call home. Hiking and sailing are his main past times along with playing rugby and ice hockey, depending on the season.

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# Marco Rosso – Expedition Guide

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Marco was born in the region of Prosecco & Tiramisù in Northern Italy.

He graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Padua, his native city, and subsequently achieved a Master's degree in "Turbomachinery and Fluid Dynamics" at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

Currently he is studying Earth Science at Stockholm University, Sweden.

After a few years working in the automotive industry, he decided to embark himself on a new quest. For two years he backpacked from the tropical forests of Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Andean Cordillera, rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfying his innate curiosity, thereby started to study Earth Science.

During the last decade he has been living in Puerto Natales, Chile; leading groups as a trekking guide and tour leader in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia and for four years has started to join expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic on board of Oceanwide vessels.

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# Emily Clarke – Expedition Guide

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

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

Familiar with life at sea, Emily divides her time between two fairly different roles. The first as an expedition guide, and the second as a Marine Mammal Observer in the oil and gas industry, working onboard seismic vessels; protecting marine mammals from anthropogenic sound sources in the ocean.

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

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

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# Werner Kruse - Expedition Guide

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Werner Kruse is a well-seasoned traveller and an experienced filmmaker, photographer and expedition guide. He has worked on numerous international productions and produced travel documentaries, including wildlife and expedition documentaries in Africa. His film, *The Boy from the Wild*, premiered at the Royal Geographic Society in London as well as the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival in New York City. Currently the film is available on Amazon Prime Video.

After completing his studies, he travelled extensively, making documentaries all over the world. He explored places such as Petra, Machu Picchu, Great Barrier Reef and Rapa Nui, Spitsbergen, Iceland as well as his favourites, the Hawaiian and Tahitian Islands. He is currently based in Cape Town, South Africa, working on TV shows, documentaries, commercials and corporate productions. He frequently travels abroad for various video and photographic assignments.

Werner is extremely passionate about conservation, particularly wildlife and the ocean and supports various environmental causes. His work depicting Gentoo penguins in Antarctica was featured by National Geographic, and his annual return to Antarctica remains a highlight for him. His travels have taken him to 112 countries, enabling him to capture a richly diverse spectrum of images.

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# Enric Sangrà Mòdol – Exp. Guide

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**“Connecting Science with People”** – This is Enric’s mission.

He holds a **Master’s degree in Scientific Communication** from Valencian International University and a **Bachelor’s degree in Geology** from the University of Barcelona. With extensive experience as a science communicator in various research institutes in Spain, he has worked closely with researchers to effectively communicate their discoveries.

Enric is passionate about **making Earth Science accessible to the public**. He bridges the gap between researchers and society, transforming complex scientific results into clear and engaging messages. His skills led him to become one of the ten finalists in the national scientific monologue competition in Spain, "Solo de Ciencia," where the country’s top science communicators were selected.

Enric’s expertise spans a wide range of Earth Science topics, from geology to environmental issues. **He is really excited about guiding in polar regions**, where the unique geological features, including ancient rock formations, meteorite-rich fields, and glacial landscapes, offer invaluable insights into Earth’s history. By sharing the fascinating stories of these remote regions, Enric brings the Earth’s geological history to life, making science both accessible and engaging for all audiences.

Enric’s hobbies are always outdoor sports, including alpinism, mountaineering, hiking, climbing, trail running, and backcountry skiing. His favorite spots are the Catalan and Aragonese Pyrenees, where he has summited Aneto (3,404 m) during the winter period.

**Ask him anything about geology and of “quartz” he will give you the best explanation.**

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# Tom van Hoof - Expedition Guide

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I visited the polar regions for the first time in 2001. As a PhD student I attended a course at the University Centre of Svalbard and fell in love with the Arctic Wilderness of Spitsbergen. After finishing my PhD in palaeo-climate research at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, I lived for a while in Arizona. When returning home, I started to work for the Dutch Geological Survey where I got the chance to do fieldwork in the Arctic again.

Over the years I participated and organized several geological field campaigns in Spitsbergen where I spent the most precious moments of my life in tents, remote cabins or small ships. In 2015 I came into contact with Oceanwide Expeditions during a scientific expedition on M/V Ortelius. Shortly after, I started working as an expedition guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in both polar regions. Besides expedition guiding I also still help with the field logistics on Arctic scientific expeditions.

My day-to-day job nowadays is for the Netherlands Polar Program, a section of the Dutch Science Council (NWO). This organization funds Dutch polar scientific research and manages the Dutch polar infrastructure. I am a fanatic outdoor enthusiast, and I recently finished a training for Hike and Survival instructor. I live in the Netherlands with my wife, three daughters and two Leonberger dogs who all like to camping, preferably in winter conditions.

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# Sarah Gerats - Expedition Guide

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Sarah Gerats (NL) grew up in Belgium but lost her heart to the Arctic the first time she came to the North, as an exchange student at the Academy of Arts in Iceland.

After exploring the North for many years, she traveled to Spitsbergen for the first time in April 2012, and never left. She started working at sea that same summer and is now working full time as an expedition leader and guide aboard sailing vessels both in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Sarah guides with an endless enthusiasm for the polar regions, and knows much about the archipelago's terrain, wildlife, and history. Her main focus are the many stories connected to Svalbard's different locations, as well as the rapidly changing landscape.

As a year-round resident of Spitsbergen, Sarah knows the details of the island's daily life and enjoys telling you all about the long dark months in the high north.

When not working on board larger sailing vessels, you will still find Sarah at sea. She lives on a 30 feet steel sailing boat which she sailed single handed from the Netherlands to Longyearbyen.

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# Henrik Enckell – Dive Team Leader

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Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer. He was one of the first persons to bring tourists diving in Antarctica

He has been diving for over 30 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters General von Steuben and Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic and HMS Victoria ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

He has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions for more than 20 years and has supervised thousands of dives in polar waters. Henrik also works as a submersible pilot and surface officer.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and has previously lived and worked in Japan and India several years before becoming an expedition guide full time. He now lives in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters and his son.

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# Sid Paul Dewfall – Dive Guide

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Sid Dewfall is a professional dive instructor and expedition guide with a strong background in marine science and field operations. Originally from Gibraltar, he has built his career around a passion for the ocean and a fascination with remote environments. Sid holds a Master of Science degree in Marine Science and Climate Change and has been involved in research and conservation projects ranging from coral restoration in the Mediterranean to community-based citizen science initiatives.

With thousands of dives completed around the world, Sid has developed his particular expertise in polar diving and the unique demands it brings. Working in challenging conditions has given him a deep respect for safety, teamwork, and careful preparation. His focus is on helping guests explore the polar regions with confidence, while sharing insights into the ecosystems and wildlife encountered along the way.

On board, Sid can often be found supporting dive operations, guiding Zodiac cruises, or assisting guests during landings. He enjoys working closely with people, making sure each experience is both safe and memorable. His approachable style and enthusiasm for the natural world make him a valued member of the team.

Away from the polar regions, Sid continues to pursue underwater research and outdoor adventure. Whether in the water, on the mountainside, or travelling by motorcycle, he is most at home in environments that demand resilience and curiosity. He believes that time spent in wild places fosters a lasting connection with nature and he is proud to help guests experience that in the Arctic and Antarctic.

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## Clara Iachetti – Dive Guide

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Clara is Argentinean, who is born in Buenos Aires. Since she was a child Clara loved the ocean and the adventure. In 2011 she obtained her bachelor's Marine Biology-oriented degree in Biological Sciences, at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and a European M.Sc. in Marine Environment and Resources (MER) in 2012. Since 2012 she has been working in the Austral Centre of Scientific Investigations (CADIV- CONICET) at Ushuaia, Tierra de Fuego (Argentina). Firstly, on her PhD on plankton dynamics, then with her postdoctoral project on harmful algal blooms, and

nowadays as a researcher at CADIC. For the last 10 years she has participated of several research expeditions to the South Atlantic and Antarctica, even spending some time in the Shetland Islands, at the Argentinean Base "Carlini".

On top of her scientist career, she is a member of Beagle Secretos del Mar, a non-profit organisation that supports marine conservation in which she is responsible for the education program, lecturing and diving. Living in Ushuaia (and previously in Bariloche) has also led her passion towards mountaineering, mainly backcountry skiing and climbing.

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# Gonzalo Sabattini- Dive Guide

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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, where 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 of 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.

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## Minke Twijnstra – Ships doctor

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Minke Twijnstra (51 years old) is an experienced Emergency Department physician (ER doctor). Since 2013 she has been working at Deventer Hospital in the Netherlands. She grew up in the northernmost province, Friesland, where she was raised bilingually (Frisian/Dutch). She studied in Utrecht, Amsterdam, and in Salt Lake City, USA. As a ship doctor, she will be responsible for providing medical care for the passengers and crew of Oceanwide Expeditions.

In her free time she enjoys sports, including ice skating, cycling, and hiking. In the past she played rugby for the Dutch

national women's team. She has also completed several long solo journeys, such as cycling around the North Sea (5,600 km) and walking the Olavspad pilgrimage route (600 km). Of course, she also enjoys long-distance travel, including trips to the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Peru, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Sri Lanka, and she has visited most countries in Europe. She has a particular love for outdoor activities such as ice skating, hiking and bushcraft in Scandinavia. Last winter she completed a beautiful trekking journey with snowmobiling, dog sledding and snowshoeing through Finnish, Swedish, and Norwegian Lapland. Other hobbies include reading, cold-water swimming and doing puzzles.

**WELCOME ABOARD!**

*Luggage will be delivered to your cabin. Please make check to make sure you have received all your luggage. If you have any extra luggage in your cabin – please notify a crew member.*

**\*\* Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge on deck 6 \*\***

±1700 **Welcome & safety briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge (deck 6)** for a **mandatory** safety briefing and lifeboat drill. **All passengers must attend.** Thank you.

**Lifeboat Drill**

**All guests** please collect your orange lifejackets from your cabin and proceed to the passenger MUSTER STATION in the **lounge (deck 6)**.

1845 **Welcome Meeting.** Please join your hotel manager Volodymyr in the **lounge (deck 6)** for an introduction to our ship Ortelius.

1900 The meeting will be followed by welcome drinks with Captain Barria and a chance to meet the Expedition team and learn more about our voyage around North Spitsbergen.

1930 **Buffet Dinner** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4)

**After dinner we will issue rubber boots for everyone and have a mandatory briefing for the DIVERS.**  
**Please listen for announcements.**

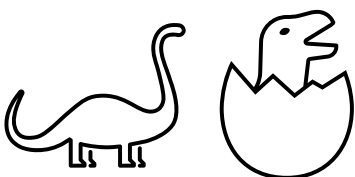
*We will sail into open sea this evening and the ship may move – please secure your belongings and be careful when moving around the ship. Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.*

- 0715      **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0830      **Mandatory Polar Bear safety briefing and Zodiac briefing. All passengers please attend.**  
Please be prompt at the meeting. The sooner we finish the meeting, the sooner we can get out and explore!  
**Divers** Please listen for announcements regarding your 'Check Out Dive' this morning.
- +/- 1000      **Burgerbukta Zodiac Cruise**  
Located on the north side of Hornsund, Burgerbukta has steep slopes on either side which display some of Svalbard's most beautiful geology, topped off with sweeping glaciers at the northern end.
- 1300      **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1415      **Treskelen Landing**  
This peninsula provides spectacular views of Hornsund all the way from the vast glaciers of Brepollen in the East to the high mountains of the west.
- 1900      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1930      **Buffet Dinner** is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

- 0715      **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0830      **Divers** please be ready to help load the zodiacs at 0830 (15 minutes before the meeting time for the Landing guests).
- 0845      **Sundneset Landing**  
This wild spot on the south west of Barentsøya provides a great location for hiking with lakes, view points and a small hut built in 1959.
- 1230      **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1415      **Kapp Lee**  
We hope to split the afternoon so everyone can zodiac cruise and land. This historic site in the northwestern corner of Edgeøya is home to a walrus haul out during the summer months.
- 1830      **Recap** - Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Buffet Dinner** is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

- 0745      **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1000      **Sea Ice.** We will be sailing through sea ice today in search of wildlife but if you would like to learn more about the ice and how it forms then please join Marco in the Lounge.
- 1230      **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1500      **The Cultural Evolution of a Polar Bear.** To expand on our knowledge of polar bears, please join Gabi in the lounge to hear about their historical significance.
- 1830      **Recap** - Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Buffet Dinner** is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

- 0715      **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0830      **Divers** please be ready to help load the zodiacs at 0830 (15 minutes before the meeting time for the Landing guests).
- 0845      **Boltodden Landing**  
We have an exciting opportunity to visit Boltodden, a site on the East coast of Spitsbergen where layers of rock form a picturesque landscape for hiking and we can even find some dinosaur (Ornithopods) footprints.
- Boltodden – all day hike**  
For those who are eager to spend more time ashore we can land in the morning as usual and stay on land until mid-afternoon, taking a packed lunch to enjoy with a view, we hope!  
\*\*This activity requires signing up and sticking with your choice! \*\*
- 1230      **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1400      **Divers** please be ready to help load the zodiacs at 15 minutes before the meeting time for the other guests.
- 1415      **Kvalbreen Zodiac Cruise**  
Along the coastline to the west of the landing site, we can cruise the glacier front where Indrebobreen and Kvalbreen meet.
- 1830      **Recap** - Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served!



- 0745      **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0900      **Divers** please be ready to help load the zodiacs 15 minutes before the meeting time for the Landing guests.
- 0915      **Bamsebu Landing**  
This landing site lies on the southern shores of Van Keulenfjorden in Bellsund. A cabin was erected here to use as a whaling station in the 1930's and the shores are lined with evidence of these times. Wildlife, history and geology all contribute to the character of this site.
- 1230      **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1415      **Divers** please be ready to help load the zodiacs at 15 minutes before the meeting time for the other guests.
- 1430      **Recherchebreen Zodiac Cruise**  
At the foot of the receding glacial front lies a secluded lagoon which is lined by sea ice for much of the year. We hope to cruise this lagoon and the calving glacier front.
- 1830      **Recap** - Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Plated Dinner** is available in the **dining room** (deck 4).

- 0715      **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0830      **Divers** please be ready to help load the zodiacs 15 minutes before the meeting time for the Landing guests.
- 0845      **Salmaneset Landing**  
We hope to land on this spit of land that divides two large fjords with vertically tiled rock layers filled with fossils. We will visit low tundra, grazing ground for reindeer, and hike up onto the rock promontory to have views across Isfjorden.
- \*We will also offer a **Polar Plunge** at end of the landing!\*
- 1230      **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1415      **Divers** please be ready to help load the zodiacs at 15 minutes before the meeting time for the other guests.
- 1430      **Colesbukta Landing**  
This abandoned Russian settlement was used until 1962 as a port to ship coal from the local mining sites. At this location we can hike and explore the remaining artifacts.
- 1845      **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join us in the Lounge for a farewell drink with Captain Barria and the expedition team. We will also explain plans for disembarkation in Longyearbyen and look back on our voyage.
- 1930      **Farewell Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

- 0715      **Wake up call** - Good Morning! Please place your large check in luggage outside your cabin before you go to breakfast.
- 0730      Breakfast Buffet is available in the dining room for 1 hour.
- 0900      All guests on Flight **SK4491 (10:45)** will take a bus from the ship to the airport. Please put a **BLUE LABEL** on your luggage. Your luggage will go to the airport on a truck.
- 0900      All guests on Flight **SK4493 (19:40)** will take a bus to town. Please put an **RED LABEL** on your luggage. Your bus to the airport will leave town at **17.30**. Your luggage will be waiting for you at the airport in a truck.
- 0900      All guests on Flight **DY391 (21:10)** will take a bus to town. Please put an **ORANGE LABEL** on your luggage. Your bus to the airport will leave town at **18.45**. Your luggage will be waiting for you at the airport in a truck.
- 0900      All guests staying in town take the bus to town and make your way to your hotel. Please do **NOT** put any label on your luggage. Take it on the bus with you.

From the Captain, all the crew and the Expedition Team on board the MV Ortelius, 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.