



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

27 June – 6 July, 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.



Captain Remmert Koster

and his international crew of 73 sailors

Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	[Germany]
Second Officer:	Solina Duguay	[Canada]
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:	Vincent Groot	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Marcel Paul	[Netherlands]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Jerry Zhao	[China]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Chris Long	[New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Juan Berenstein	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Lucia Romero	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Marcelo Tarapow	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Matt Cheok	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland/UK]
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Sven Joest	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Jens Binderup	[Denmark]
Expedition Guide:	Hana Spickova	[CzechRepublic]
Expedition Guide:	Luce Moussiere	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Li Ye	[China]
Translator:	Stella Yao	[China]
Translator:	Zoy Li	[China]
Translator:	Ran Chen	[China]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Saturday 27 June, Longyearbyen, Embarkation day

08h00 GPS Position: 78°15'N / 015°07.2'E

Wind: N2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +9°C



Today marked the beginning of our Arctic adventure! After arriving in Longyearbyen, we had our first taste of expedition life as we boarded the Zodiacs to shuttle out to *M/V Hondius*, which was waiting for us at anchor. Once on board, we settled into our cabins before gathering for the mandatory safety briefing.

The emergency alarm soon sounded, signalling the start of our lifeboat drill. After collecting our bright orange life jackets from our cabins, we made our way to our muster stations. It was quite funny looking around at a sea of orange as everyone squeezed into the lounge, but the drill gave us all confidence and helped us become familiar with the ship's safety procedures before setting sail.



Later, we gathered for the Captain's Cocktail, where we met the Expedition Team and heard about the exciting plans for the days ahead. The anticipation really started to build as we learned more about the wildlife, glaciers and incredible landscapes waiting for us.



Dinner was a hearty buffet with plenty of delicious options, and many of us couldn't resist going back for seconds. As the evening drew to a close, Hondius slipped away from Longyearbyen and out into the open sea. Before turning in for the night, we secured our cabins, knowing we'd wake up alongside the spectacular Lilliehöökreen Glacier, ready for our first full day of exploring the High Arctic.

Day 2 – Sunday 28 June, Lilliehookbreen and Ny Alesund

08h00 GPS Position: 79°20'N / 011°42.3'E

Wind: N4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C

Our first full day aboard Hondius could hardly have started in a more spectacular way. In the early morning, we enjoyed a peaceful cruise along the breathtaking Lilliehöökreen Glacier. The sea was perfectly flat, the sun shone from a clear sky, and the glacier's towering ice cliffs reflected beautifully in the calm water. It was a magical introduction to the Arctic and a reminder of just how special this place is.



Then it was time for our mandatory expedition briefings. We were introduced to the AECO guidelines, ensuring we understand how to responsibly visit the fragile Arctic environment. We also learned everything we need to know about Zodiac operations and onboard safety - essential preparation for the adventures ahead.

After lunch, we made our first landing at Ny-Ålesund, the world's northernmost settlement and an active international research community. We wandered among the research stations, visited the

museum, browsed the small gift shop, and stopped by the northernmost post office in the world. Many of us couldn't resist sending postcards home from such a unique location. A pleasant walk led us to one of Ny-Ålesund's most historic landmarks: the mast from which Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile departed aboard the airship *Norge* on their pioneering journey to the North Pole in 1926. Standing at this remarkable site, it was easy to imagine the excitement and ambition of those early polar explorers.

Returning to the ship, we gathered for the daily recap with the expedition team, who shared highlights from the day and gave us a preview of tomorrow's plans. Another delicious dinner followed, and it seemed the perfect ending to an already unforgettable first day.

But the Arctic had one more surprise waiting for us. Just after dessert,

Marcel's voice came over the PA system with the announcement every expedition traveler dreams of hearing: "Polar bear!" It was not just one, but two!

We hurried out onto the decks to witness an incredible sight. One of the bears was swimming gracefully between two islands, illuminated by the most beautiful light imaginable. It was a magical encounter, and smiles were everywhere as cameras clicked and memories were made. For many of us, this was the moment we had dreamed about when booking this voyage.



With our first polar bear sightings already behind us and endless spectacular scenery still surrounding us, excitement for the days ahead has never been higher.

We are ready for tomorrow and eager to continue exploring Svalbard.

Day 3 – Monday 29 June, Gravneset, Gullybukta

08h00 GPS Position: 79°35.3'N / 010°28.9'E

Wind: N-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Overcast • Air temperature: +9°C



The morning began with perfect conditions for a walk along a beautiful sandy beach. After a short Zodiac ride, we landed at Gravneset, a place first discovered by the great Dutch explorer Willem Barentsz in 1596, who claimed the land for the Netherlands. Around 20 years later, an English expedition claimed the same territory for King James I and renamed the area Trinity Harbour.

The name Gravneset, meaning "Grave Point", reflects its sombre history. Around 130 graves can still be seen here, as the site was home to a whaling station that operated from the early 1600s until the late 1700s. It remains one of the largest historic cemeteries in the Svalbard archipelago. Four blubber ovens also survive, providing a glimpse into the importance of this settlement during the height of the Arctic whaling industry.

Gravneset is also remembered as the first place in Svalbard where a woman set foot. In 1839, French writer Léonie d'Aunet arrived here as part of the French scientific expedition aboard the frigate La Recherche, led by the naturalist Paul Gaimard.

She later described the experience:

"I said on the ground, as one usually does, but I should have said on snow, because I couldn't see the slightest part of earth."

This quotation comes from her book *Voyage d'une femme au Spitzberg*, published in 1854.

Léonie d'Aunet was deeply moved by the sight of so many graves in such a remote and unforgiving place. She wrote:

"But there was nothing written of who they were, where they came from and when they died. Coffins without headstones, without monuments, without wreaths or flowers, without anyone to cry or pray for them, without a friend to miss them and visit their barren, frozen place of rest, where the wild howls of the polar bears and the storms are the only things to break the deep silence."

After reading these words and then standing in the very place she described, it was impossible not to share some of the emotions she must have felt while walking through this forgotten cemetery.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed a Zodiac cruise to Gullybreen ('breen' means glacier in Norwegian), exploring the small bay of Gullybukta, which forms part of the larger Magdalenefjorden, named after Mary Magdalene.



The spectacular glacier was impressive enough, with its icy breeze reaching our faces, but nature had another highlight in store. We quietly approached a small beach where around twenty walrus were resting peacefully. Completely relaxed and seemingly unconcerned by our presence, they looked as though they had mastered the true art of enjoying life — perhaps exactly how we should all spend our holidays.



After our afternoon activities, we gathered in the lounge where Marcel, our Expedition Leader, outlined the plans for the following day. Hondius would continue her voyage through northern Svalbard, steadily pushing further north with the hope of reaching the true realm of the polar bear, deep in the frozen Arctic Ocean.

Day 4 – Tuesday 30 June, Monacobreen & Texas bar

08h00 GPS Position: 79°33.4'N / 012°32.6'E

Wind: SSW • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +6°C

This morning we visited the famous Monacobreen. The Blue Group set off first, followed by the Red Group. After several days of outdoor activities, everyone had already memorised the procedures and precautions for taking the zodiac boats, so everything went smoothly.



When we first arrived at the glacier, the weather wasn't particularly clear—thick clouds covered the sky, and although no one felt cold, the lighting for viewing wasn't ideal either. But as time passed, the clouds drifted away, the fog dispersed, and rays of sunlight began to fall upon the glacier, revealing a blue sky. Everyone was overjoyed. Under the bright sunshine and clear blue skies, admiring the magnificent glacier scenery was absolutely wonderful, and we all immersed ourselves in the boundless beauty of nature.

Then the glacier began to make strange noises—rumbling sounds like thunder. Everyone was curious about what was causing them, while some guests who knew about glacier behavior had already prepared their cameras, ready to capture the spectacular moment of an ice calving at any time. Their patience paid off: a fairly large ice calving occurred. It happened without any warning, just like that. Some people captured it on camera, while others didn't have time to pull out their phones before it was all over. Afterward, several smaller calvings followed. The expedition team also took the opportunity to educate the guests on board about the impact of global warming on Arctic glaciers and sea ice. Everyone was torn—excited at the prospect of witnessing the grandeur of ice calving, yet quietly lamenting the unavoidable reality of glacial melt...

In the afternoon, we went to Texas Bar for a hike. Our expedition leader Marcel arranged three different hiking intensities—long, medium, and short hikes—so that everyone could choose according to their physical condition and photography needs. Each group was accompanied by at least two-armed expedition guides to ensure our safety. In areas where polar bears could appear at any time, staying vigilant at all times was essential to protect everyone's lives.

At Texas Bar, there are remains of old hunter cabins that we could enter to look around and take photos, learning about the living conditions of hunters who once trapped in the Arctic. Along the way, we also saw many Arctic flowers and plants, including moss campion, mountain avens, Arctic willow, purple saxifrage, Arctic poppy, and more. To adapt to the extreme Arctic climate, these



plants have evolved many shared characteristics. Most are perennials, and to withstand the fierce, bitter winds, they grow close to the ground to avoid being stripped of moisture or blown away by strong gusts. With less than half a year of daylight, they don't grow as tall or lush as plants in temperate or tropical regions. The Arctic willow, for example, though part of the willow family, grows to only about 10 centimeters in length in the Arctic—and even that modest size represents nearly a century of persistent effort. It's hard not to admire their remarkable tenacity.



In this cold, dry, low-light, yet high-UV environment, the plants and animals that have taken root here have undergone millions of years of evolution and elimination to become what we see today. Nature can indeed be harsh, but it is also wondrous. Life may seem small in the face of nature, yet its unyielding spirit is never easily extinguished.

Day 5 – Wednesday 1 July, Into the Pack Ice

08h00 GPS Position: 80°32.6'N / 012°58.8'E

Wind: E-2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -2°C



Today was a classic Arctic expedition day aboard *MV Hondius* as we spent the entire day navigating through the sea ice north of Svalbard in search of the region's remarkable wildlife. Under calm conditions and with excellent visibility for much of the day, the ship carefully threaded its way through a constantly changing mosaic of ice floes, pressure ridges, and open leads. The bridge and outer decks remained busy throughout the day as both guests and expedition staff kept a vigilant watch for the unmistakable silhouette of a polar bear wandering across the ice.

The morning's highlight was Marcelo's fascinating Arctic Museum. Drawing from his impressive personal collection of historical artifacts, he transported us back to the heroic age of polar exploration. Through maps, equipment, and rare memorabilia, Marcelo recounted the extraordinary stories of Roald Amundsen's pioneering journeys, Umberto



Nobile's airship expeditions, Salomon August Andrée's ambitious but tragic balloon attempt to reach the North Pole, and Fridtjof Nansen's visionary *Fram* expedition. His collection and storytelling provided a captivating glimpse into the determination, ingenuity, and resilience of those who ventured into the Arctic long before modern expedition ships made these waters more accessible.

After enjoying lunch on board, everyone returned to the decks and observation lounges as Hondius continued her slow and careful progress through the sea ice. While today's search did not reward us with the elusive king of the Arctic, the ice was certainly alive. We encountered numerous seals hauled out on the floes, resting peacefully between dives. Ringed and bearded seals offered wonderful viewing opportunities and served as a reminder that these ice-covered waters support a rich and interconnected ecosystem.

Later in the afternoon, Bill and Rose delivered an engaging lecture exploring the fascinating world of sea ice. They explained how sea ice forms, evolves, and drifts across the Arctic Ocean, and highlighted its immense importance for the wildlife that depends upon it. Looking out over the frozen seascape afterward, many guests found themselves viewing the ice with a new appreciation and understanding.

As evening approached, we gathered for our daily recap in the lounge. The expedition team reviewed the day's sightings, shared stories from the hours spent searching the ice, and discussed the conditions we had encountered throughout the day. We also looked ahead to tomorrow's plans, with optimism running high as we prepare to continue our exploration of the sea ice. Every hour spent in this extraordinary environment brings new possibilities, and with patience, persistence, and a little Arctic luck, we hope tomorrow may finally reward us with our first polar bear encounter, along with many more memorable wildlife sightings.



Day 6 – Thursday 2 July, Into the Pack Ice

08h00 GPS Position: 80°54.2'N / 012°41.6'E

Wind: SW-4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C

Our day began bright and early when we were woken around 6:30 a.m. by Marcel with the exciting news that a polar bear had been spotted close to the ship. As everyone quickly made their way onto the outer decks, we found ourselves surrounded by thick Arctic fog, making it difficult to locate the bear at first. Patience paid off, however, and as the visibility gradually improved, we were finally rewarded with wonderful views of the magnificent bear. Swarms of little auks hovered and circled overhead, while the drifting fog and the quiet Arctic landscape created a truly unforgettable start to the day. As the morning progressed, we slowly continued our journey out of the pack ice. Leaving the frozen landscape behind, we made our way along the ice edge. It wasn't long before we encountered our next highlight. A large raft of harp seals was swimming in the water near the ice edge, providing wonderful opportunities to observe these charismatic seals.



While everyone was enjoying the sight of the seals, excitement quickly spread across the decks as several blows appeared on the horizon. Soon we found ourselves in the company of an impressive gathering of whales. Fin whales, the second-largest animals on Earth, surfaced gracefully around the ship, while the unmistakable blows of blue whales—the largest animals ever to have lived—rose in the distance. To make the encounter even more special, several bowhead whales also appeared, their massive dark bodies surfacing calmly in the cold Arctic waters. For the rest of the afternoon and into the early evening, we remained with these magnificent giants, enjoying prolonged and unforgettable views as they fed and travelled in close proximity to the ice edge. It was a rare privilege to observe these iconic whale species in the same area, offering everyone on board an extraordinary wildlife experience.

As the day drew to a close, we reflected on an incredible succession of wildlife encounters—from an early morning polar bear on the sea ice to an unforgettable afternoon surrounded by whales. It was another remarkable day in the High Arctic, reminding us just how rich and spectacular the wildlife encounters around the pack ice can be.



Day 7 – Friday 3 July, Alkefjellet, Palanderbukta

08h00 GPS Position: 79°35.5'N / 018°36.4'E

Wind: SSE2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: +2°C



It was with a sense of excitement that we woke as Hondius motored towards Alkefjellet, remembering the beautiful, enticing recap photographs from the previous evening. It was going to be beautiful.

Imagine our shocked disappointment when, just before breakfast, we looked out and saw nothing but dense, swirling mist, obliterating both sea and sky.

Fortunately, our expedition leader was Marcel, and as this was an Oceanwide "Adventure," the cruise was still on! We boarded the Zodiacs, left the comfortable confines of the ship, and motored into a grey nothingness, guided only by GPS.

Relief... a hint of something ahead. Then we were treated to the sight of enormous craggy cliffs capped by a giant snowfield. Deep rock fissures poured with rushing meltwater. What a dramatic coastline—a climber's fantasy for sure, with so many magnificent routes up these dolerite cliffs.

We motored for a few hundred metres, cameras clicking wildly as we captured a few Brünnich's guillemots perched on narrow ledges. Then, as the numbers and noise increased, we were overwhelmed by the sheer density of the bird population. The sky, the sea, and the cliffs were all alive with agitated bird activity.

As if specially coordinated for us by a benevolent nature, the weather also improved. The mist cleared, revealing miles of magnificent soaring cliffs packed with thousands of these photogenic little birds.



We cruised by Zodiac from south to north, observing the remarkable geological sandwich of an enormous band of dolerite intruded into the limestone, edged with marble. The striking contrast in colour made the landscape appear even more dramatic.



Eventually, when the Zodiacs reached the glacier at the northern end, and after taking hundreds more photographs, we made a ninety-degree turn away from the rock-and-ice bay and headed back towards Hondius. By this time, the ship had slowly emerged from the mist and appeared as an enticing mass dominating the horizon—a welcome source of warmth and coffee.

After lunch, we once again voyaged through thick mist across Hinlopen Strait, unsure whether the next landing would go ahead. We knew that walking through mist in polar bear country was clearly a high-risk activity. Fortunately, as in the morning, the mist was burnt off by the sun, and it turned into a superb afternoon.

Passengers divided into long, medium, and short hiking groups before setting off across a vast expanse of small stones, quartzite, limestone, and gravel. Those who had followed Bill's lecture advice—looking, seeing, thinking, doing—found the surface endlessly fascinating.



This geologically rich landscape was studded with shallow-water marine fossils embedded in the rocks, while low patches of hardy vegetation clung to the frost-patterned gravel. Passengers marvelled at how these tiny plants managed to survive in this permafrost Arctic desert.

We returned to Hondius delighted to have experienced yet another great day with Oceanwide Expeditions in Svalbard.

Day 8 – Saturday 4 July, Boltodden, Strongbreen

08h00 GPS Position: 78°10.5' N, 021°05.1'E

Wind: W2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: +3°C

"Good morning... two polar bears on shore!"

There could hardly be a better wake-up call. As Hondius sailed through Freemansundet in the early hours of the morning, the expedition team spotted not one, but two polar bears walking along the shoreline. And before long everyone was out on deck, binoculars and cameras in hand, enjoying an unforgettable start to Independence Day.



The bears strolled peacefully alongside the ship, seemingly unbothered by our presence. One bear paused to roll playfully on the ground before taking a refreshing swim, while the other crossed a shallow riverbed on its journey. Watching these magnificent animals move through their Arctic home in perfect morning light was a privilege few will ever forget.

The wildlife spectacle did not end there. Right at the bow of Hondius, a flock of around fifty pink-footed geese drifted calmly across the water, offering wonderful close-up views and reminding us

that the Arctic is full of remarkable encounters, both great and small. Eventually, we had to continue towards our next destination. Missing breakfast may have crossed a few minds, but after such an incredible wildlife experience, it already felt as though we had been well nourished.



Our morning programme continued with Meike's engaging lecture on Arctic seabirds. She introduced us to the fascinating world of the auks, explaining why these remarkable birds migrate to the High Arctic, how they survive in such a demanding environment, and the unique adaptations that make them so successful. It was wonderful to see so many guests filling the lecture theatre, proving that while polar bears often steal the spotlight, the Arctic's birdlife is equally worthy of admiration.

For those interested in the region's rich history, the morning also offered time to settle into the lounge for a screening of *The Red Tent*, presented by expedition guide Marcelo after popular request. Before we knew it, the morning had flown by.

Lunch, as always, was a colourful and delicious affair. Head Chef Ralf and the galley team prepared another excellent meal, warmly served by our attentive hotel team under the leadership of Mehl.

Outside, the weather could hardly have been more inviting. Under blue skies, bright sunshine and calm seas, we landed at Boltodden for our afternoon adventure. This remarkable site is famous for its Lower Cretaceous dinosaur trackway, where footprints preserved in sandstone reveal that large plant-eating dinosaurs, including Iguanodon, walked here some 125 million years ago. Standing beside these ancient tracks offered a humbling reminder of just how deep the history of Svalbard truly is.

From there, we spread out on a variety of hikes across the eastern shores of Spitsbergen, Svalbard's largest island. Surrounded by wide open landscapes, untouched wilderness and complete silence, we experienced the Arctic in its purest form. Sometimes simply being present in such an extraordinary place is adventure enough.



Back on board, we returned by Zodiac to *Hondius* for the daily recap, where the expedition team shared highlights from the day, introduced tomorrow's plans, and offered useful tips for the adventures still to come.

A day of hiking certainly works up an appetite, and the evening concluded with a beautifully prepared four-course dinner.

Around the tables, conversations flowed easily as everyone exchanged stories of polar bears, ancient dinosaur footprints and personal moments from another unforgettable day in the Arctic.

For those not yet ready to call it a night, Bill rounded off the programme with his inspiring lecture, *Paintings of the Sea*. With his thoughtful perspective, it was promising that after this evening, we would never quite see the sea in the same way again.

From close encounters with the Arctic's most iconic wildlife to stepping back 125 million years into Earth's past, 4 July was a day filled with wonder, discovery and quiet moments that reminded us just how extraordinary Svalbard can be.



Day 9 – Sunday 5 July, Gashamna West, Burgerbukta

08h00 GPS Position: 78°10.5'N / 021°05.2'E

Wind: W2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: +3°C

Today, we woke up early once again because of... more polar bears! Judging by the number of us still in our nightgowns, it was clear that even though these were the fifth and sixth bears of the trip, we were still just as excited to be woken up this way.

This was our last expedition day, and the team had planned a full day outdoors. After spending some time watching the bears near the Polish research station in Hornsund, we sailed towards Gåshamna while enjoying breakfast. Once the team had scouted and prepared the landing site, we headed ashore to explore the beautiful valley. We visited the remains of old whaling stations, where standing beside enormous whale bones reminded us just how massive these marine mammals really are. Nature had reclaimed much of the site, with flowers, mosses, and mushrooms growing among the remains along the beach.

Some of us continued on a longer hike to a viewpoint overlooking the bay, while others stayed closer to the beach, watching purple sandpipers and snow buntings, or simply enjoying the sound of the waves crashing on the shore.

After a windy Zodiac ride back to Hondius, we enjoyed lunch and, for some of us, a well-earned nap.

Later in the afternoon, we arrived at Burgerbukta. Hondius waited at the entrance of the fjord, offering beautiful views of the towering mountains and glacier ahead. We explored the bay by Zodiac

in a cold, misty atmosphere that gave us one last true Arctic experience. The steep cliffs, lined with countless waterfalls and streaked with iron-red rock, made the landscape even more spectacular.



The glacier was quiet at first, but eventually rewarded us with a few calving events : a beautiful farewell as we cruised back through the ice towards Hondius.



Back on board, the expedition team gathered us in the lounge for the saddest recap of the voyage: the disembarkation briefing. Thankfully, Rose had prepared a wonderful slideshow that took us back to our very first day, reminding us of all the unforgettable memories we had made during this incredible adventure.

Day 10 – Monday 6 July, Dismbarkation, Longyearbyen

08h00 GPS Position: 78°13'N / 015°64'E

Wind: S4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +8°C

After an unforgettable journey through the High Arctic, today marked the end of our adventure aboard M/V Hondius. It was a bittersweet morning as we enjoyed one last hearty breakfast together, sharing stories, favourite moments and plenty of laughs from the past days exploring Svalbard.

Before long, it was time to gather ourselves and prepare to leave the ship that had been our home throughout the voyage. As we stepped ashore in Longyearbyen, there was a real mix of emotions. While everyone was looking forward to the next stage of their travels, it was also hard to say goodbye to the wonderful crew, Expedition Team and new friends who had become our Oceanwide family.

From towering glaciers and dramatic ice-covered landscapes to incredible wildlife encounters and unforgettable Zodiac cruises, we've shared experiences that will stay with us for years to come. Together we've explored one of the most remote and spectacular places on Earth, creating memories that are sure to be retold long after we've returned home.

Although our expedition has come to an end, the memories, photographs and friendships made along the way will remain. We leave Hondius with full hearts, incredible stories to share and a deeper appreciation for the beauty and fragility of the Arctic. Safe travels, and we hope our paths cross again on another adventure.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1050 nautical miles

Northernmost point: 80°54.5'N / 012°46.4'E

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



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice M/V Hondius

27th June – 6th July

0. Longyearbyen
1. Lilliehookbreen
2. Ny-Alesund
3. Gravnest
4. Gullybukta
5. Monacobreen
6. Texas Bar
7. Pack Ice Day
8. Pack Ice Day
9. Alkjefjellet
10. Palanderbukta
11. Freemansundet
12. Boltodden
13. Gashamna
14. Burgerbukta
15. Longearbyen



English Name	Chinese	Scientific Name	27/06	28/06	29/06	30/06	01/Jul	02/Jul	03/Jul	04/Jul	05/Jul	06/Jul
Great Northern Diver	北方大潜鸟	<i>Gavia immer</i>									x	
Red-throated diver	紅喉潜鸟	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		x						x		
Northern Fulmar	暴风鹱	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Barnacle Goose	白颊黑雁	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>		x	x				x	x	x	
Pink-footed Goose	粉脚雁	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>								x	x	
Common Eider	欧绒鸭	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		x					x	x	x	x
Long-tailed Duck	长尾鸭	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		x								
Rock Ptarmigan	岩雷鸟	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>				x						
Purple Sandpiper	紫鹬	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		x							x	
Arctic Skua	短尾贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		x	x	x	x			x		
Great Skua	大贼鸥	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		x	x				x			
Sabine's Gull	叉尾鸥	<i>Xema sabini</i>						x				
Glaucous Gull	北极鸥	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	x	x		x			x	x	x	x
Great black-backed	大黑背鸥	<i>Larus marinus</i>					x					
Black-legged Kittiwake	二趾鸥	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	白鸥	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>				x				x	x	
Arctic Tern	北极燕鸥	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	x	x	x	x				x	x	x
Brunnich's Guillemot	厚嘴海鸦	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	
Black Guillemot	黑海鸠	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	小海雀	<i>Alle alle</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Atlantic Puffin	大西洋海鹦	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	x	x			x	x	x		x	
Snow Bunting	雪鹀	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		x		x			x	x	x	x
English	Chinese	Latin	27/06	28/06	29/06	30/06	01/Jul	02/Jul	03/Jul	04/Jul	05/Jul	06/Jul
Walrus	海象	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>			x				x	x		
Bearded seal	髯海豹	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>		x								
Ringed seal	环斑海豹	<i>Phoca hispida</i>			x		x	x				
Harp seal	竖琴海豹	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>						x				
Common /Harbour	港海豹	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			x	x						
Minke Whale	小须鲸	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>		x		x						
Blue Whale	蓝鲸	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>					x					
Fin Whale	长须鲸	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>					x					
Humpback Whale	座头鲸	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		x								
Bowhead whale	弓头鲸	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>					x					
Beluga	白鲸	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>			x							
Polar Bear	北极熊	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>		x				x		x	x	

Arctic Fox	北极狐	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		x					x			
Spitsbergen Reindeer	北极驯鹿	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>		x					x			

Marcel Paul – Expedition Leader



From his teens Marcel has been a keen traveller. After camping and trekking with friends, he led groups trekking to Austria, Switzerland, England, Wales, and Scotland.

His own travels over the last 30 years brought him to more than 65 countries on all 7 continents.

With his interest in history, ice, cartography, exploration, and as keen hobby photographer, the Polar Regions have always been drawing his attention.

At his first arrival to Svalbard in 2011 and a second trip in 2013, he felt connected with the remoteness of the place and the dynamics of the polar nature. At that time the idea started to grow to become a polar guide and give up a job that was keeping him indoor most of the time.

When the Dutch organised a scientific polar expedition to Edgeøya it seemed the perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge about Spitsbergen, the uniqueness of

the islands and their eco systems by working with the scientists.

He joined the expedition in 2015 as field assistant and participated in various fields of research. In 2016 he spent time in the summer at the Dutch polar station in Ny Ålesund, again as field assistant. From 2017 Marcel has been working as a polar guide in the Arctic followed by Antarctica in 2018.

Today he still spends about half the year onboard with Oceanwide whilst sailing around Spitsbergen, Greenland, Jan Mayen, Antarctica, Falklands, and South Georgia. The rest of the year is spent either at his homes in Holland and Slovakia or traveling with his wife and their dog.

中文

从十几岁起，马塞尔就热衷于旅行。在有了多次与朋友露营和徒步旅行的经历后，马塞尔带领团队徒步前往奥地利、瑞士、英格兰、威尔士和苏格兰。在过去的 30 年里，他的旅行足迹遍及七大洲超过 65 个国家。马塞尔对历史、冰雪、制图、探险有浓厚的兴趣，同时也是一名摄影爱好者，因此，极地地区的风景能同时满足他的所有兴趣爱好。2011 年马塞尔第一次抵达斯瓦尔巴群岛，而在2013年，当他第二次抵达斯瓦尔巴群岛时，他感到自己与这个偏远的大自然有着一一种说不清道不明的联系。那时，马塞尔萌生了成为一名极地向导的念头，并放弃了他所从事的白领工作。当荷兰人组织前往埃奇岛的科极地探险时，对马塞尔来说，这就是通过与科学家的合作，获得更多关于斯瓦尔巴群岛及其生态系统独特性知识的绝佳机会。马塞尔于2015年作为野外助理加入泛海探险，并参与了各个领域的研究。2016 年夏天，他在新奥勒松的荷兰极地站工作了一段时间，再次担任现场助理。自 2017 年起，马塞尔一直在北极担任极地向导，随后于 2018 年又前往南极洲。

一年中，马塞尔在泛海探险公司几乎要度过大半年的时间，斯匹次卑尔根岛、格陵兰岛、扬马延岛、南极洲、福克兰群岛和南乔治亚岛都留下他航行的足迹。剩下的时间，马塞尔要么在荷兰和斯洛伐克的家中度过，要么与妻子和爱犬一起旅行。

Jerry Zhao – Asst. Exp. Leader



Jerry has been in love with nature and wildlife and traveling all his life. Soon after completing 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.

中文

Jerry 一直都很喜爱自然野生动物和旅行。从美国 Drexel University 毕业后，开始从事旅游业。开始作为高端客户旅行顾问和领队走遍了欧洲。然后作为一家旅行社的合伙人，主要从事路线规划和员工培训。为寻找更多的冒险，Jerry 去往世界各地学习所需技能，足迹踏遍 7 大洲 4 大洋，然后在 2015 年作为探险队员加入 Oceanwide 探险队。他曾多次前往北极点，北极斯瓦尔巴地区，和南极地区，在这期间他自学关于极地的地理，野生动物和环境知识。他热爱大自然和野生动物并喜爱与人分享他的故事。

Christan Long – Asst. Exp. 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 untouched emerald green river. Most of their food comes from a huge vegetable garden or is 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 off 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 65 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, Antarctic

Peninsula, East Antarctica and the Atlantic Ocean.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska on a small yacht and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway. Here he endured two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races. He also guides with Oceanwide in Svalbard each summer.

In 2022, Chris published a best-selling autobiography *"The Boy From Gorge River"* and when he is not at sea you will find him training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license or exploring a new corner of the globe.

中文

克里斯在新西兰最偏远的乡村长大，他们家距离最近的公路需要跋涉两天的山路，那条公路就位于新西兰西海岸的乔治河边。

他的家人在小木屋里过着尽可能自给自足的生活，木屋四周被丛林环绕，海岸线崎岖，河流翠绿。他们的大部分食物来自一个巨大的菜园或从海洋中捕捞。在这个未受破坏的自然角落，克里斯度过了人生中的前17年，直到有一天，他决定开始探索世界其他有趣的地方。

离开乔治河后，克里斯开始尽可能多地去体验和探索世界。对冒险的不断追求让他走遍了七大洲60多个国家。此外，他在新西兰南极洲研究站斯科特基地作为野外训练员度过了两个完整的夏季工作，并多次航行到罗斯海和东南极洲。

克里斯对北极也不陌生。他曾经在凶险的西北航道航行，穿越格陵兰岛、加拿大和阿拉斯加的顶部，并在新冠大流行期间在挪威北部小城特罗姆瑟，和150只哈士奇狗一起生活，忍受了两个漫长寒冷黑暗的北极冬季，为雪地赛狗耐力赛训练。

最近返回新西兰后，带着亲身经历的真情实感和切身感受，克里斯出版了一本自传，并正在接受商业固定翼飞行员执照的培训。

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.

中文

胡安·贝伦斯坦（Juan Berenstein）是一位出生于阿根廷乌斯怀亚的专业摄影师和无人机飞行员，也是冲锋舟驾驶员、探险队员和摄影向导。

他是一个年轻且积极进取的人，喜欢享受户外活动和山里的时光。他的爱好是户外徒步、FPV 无人机飞行和摄影。

他对自然的热情源于从很小的时候，他的家人给他的户外启蒙，他们喜欢周末在世界的尽头露营，并在假期环游全国。

他在布宜诺斯艾利斯学习摄影，但最后决定回到他的家乡开始自己的职业生涯并发展独立的生活方式。

胡安多年来一直在极地地区工作，包括南极洲、南乔治亚岛、福克兰群岛、斯瓦尔巴群岛、格陵兰岛和北美五大湖。

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.

中文

露西娅·罗梅罗（Lucia Romero）是一个外向的且充满好奇心的人，总是在世界各地寻找新的挑战 and 经历。

她在阿根廷巴塔哥尼亚海岸的一个小镇马德林港出生和长大，在海洋野生动物和户外生活方式的包围下长大。这促使她选择了自己的职业走向，获得了酒店和旅游学士学位，并成为了一名专业导游和皮划艇向导。

她喜欢分享她对探索、学习、发现、保护和野生动物的热情。

她拥有超过 12 年带队巴塔哥尼亚旅行的经验，现在专注于极地环境的奇观和生物多样性。

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.

中文

马塞罗·塔拉波 (Marcelo Tarapow) 拥有基尔梅斯国立大学社会科学历史学硕士学位，阿根廷海军退役少将、尼古拉·瓦普萨罗夫学院（保加利亚）名誉教授和海军系统毕业生。

在1988年至2017年间，他参加了12次南极探险，担任过不同的职务，直到最后两次担任了探险队长，在南极的活动时长大约900天。

他还进行了对环境保护、气候变化、能源效率和旅游方面的研究。

他曾在阿根廷、哥伦比亚和保加利亚担任南极行前课程教授，特别是航海、气象学、南极条约和马德里议定书方面的课程。

他是南极学院院长，也是讲师和研究员，特别是与白色大陆相关的主题，曾在阿根廷、比利时、保加利亚、哥伦比亚、法国和罗马尼亚介绍过历史上的南极探险活动。

他是 2024-2025 年双年度极地教育者国际理事会成员。

他的主要爱好是游泳、骑行、探戈、阅读，还是与南极历史有关的文物收藏家，也是一名业余摄影师。

随时准备学习其他文化，聆听故事，热情分享他们的经验并关心环境。

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!

中文

马特是一位来自澳大利亚悉尼的探险摄影师与摄像师。

他的工作足迹遍及地球上一些最偏远、最迷人的目的地——从南极洲、斯瓦尔巴群岛和格陵兰的极地地区，到雄伟的非洲稀树草原、中亚的内陆草原国度，以及南美洲的崎岖山脉。

在南极洲，马特最喜爱的拍摄对象是活泼的巴布亚企鹅，以及晚霞映照下壮丽的极地风光。

作为一名摄影教育者，马特乐于与同行的旅伴分享他的专业知识，并激励他们与自然世界建立联结。

马特的职业道路充满惊喜。他曾在悉尼担任商业与保险律师，但如今的他更为自己能够投身于对摄影和探险的热爱而感到欣喜。

在不担任领队时，马特大部分时间都在露营、长途徒步、品尝大量的比乐蒂咖啡以及探索户外世界中度过，他最近才从塔吉克斯坦的范山脉归来。

在船上，您总会发现马特在甲板上，相机不离手。请随时向他请教任何摄影问题，或者只是来一场友好的交谈。

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 58 years' experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 58 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip and operates as an Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist

Aside from his artistic commitments Bill is qualified instructor in a range of Royal Yachting Association disciplines including sailing, windsurfing and powerboating. He is also a British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor and British Caving Association Local

Cave leader. He is a safety expert in these fields.

During the winter at home Bill is a National Patroller for the British Association of Ski Patrollers and in addition is a member of Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski.

中文

他的同事和客户都称他为 “超级比尔”，他是一位热爱户外活动的漫画家，也是艾伦学院（Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire）艺术与设计教育的前负责人。

比尔在普兰奇斯号（Plancius）建成时加入了泛海探险公司（Oceanwide Expeditions）担任向导，在过去的几年里，他迷上了极地探险。

他在艺术设计教育和工业设计方面拥有 58 年的经验。此外，他还拥有 60 年领导和指导一系列户外活动的经验。

比尔喜欢为每次旅行制作幽默的漫画日志，并以艺术家、设计师、插图画家和漫画家的身份开展工作。

除了从事艺术工作外，比尔还是英国皇家帆船协会的合格教练，指导过帆船、帆板和动力艇等一系列项目。他还是英国独木舟联盟独木舟公开赛教练和英国洞穴探险协会地方洞穴探险队队长。他是这些领域的安全专家。

在家中过冬时，比尔是英国滑雪巡逻员协会的国家巡逻员，还是国际滑雪巡逻员联合会的成员。

比尔居住在苏格兰西北部，是 Lochinver 高地运动会委员会主席和 Assynt 高地运动会前会长。

比尔是阿辛特佃农信托基金会的荣誉会员，最近被授予南乔治亚岛终身荣誉监护人。

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.

中文

Rose Li 是一位经验丰富的极地探险专业人士，兼具室内设计、酒店服务及极地导览的多元化背景。

她来自中国，毕业于武汉学院，获室内设计学位。自2014年起，她的职业生涯便致力于沉浸式旅行，最初在国际邮轮上担任VIP客户关系主管及邮轮大使主管，穿梭于亚洲欧洲各地，积累了丰富的服务与管理经验。

2018年，李玫瑰正式进入专业探险领域，她对于历史与地质学的热爱在此成为了工作的核心。作为极地探险向导和讲师，她通过讲述地球的过往与地貌的变迁，为旅客带来富有深度的体验。她的综合技能还包括口译、冲锋艇驾驶以及宾客服务管理。

作为一名狂热的探险者，Rose的足迹已遍布全球50多个国家。她始终期待着下一次冒险，并致力于提供卓越的客户服务，与同行旅客分享探索世界的无穷乐趣。

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, his semester abroad in Joensuu, Finland, 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, which eventually led him to move to Tromsø in the Norwegian Arctic. There he finished at the Arctic University of Norway his master's degree specialising in Peace

and Conflict Transformation. From Tromsø he is able to pursue his passion for the outdoors and the cold by skiing, hiking, and exploring these vast and remote environments the Norwegian Arctic has to offer.

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 during the adventure about any questions you may have or your own polar interests and stories.

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.

中文

麦卡很早就是很喜欢鸟类的有热情的自然学者和旅行者。

7 岁时自己买了第一本关于鸟类的书。为了看到接触到这些鸟类而长时间身处户外，并研究学习自然和野生动物。

她有电影电视系的硕士学位，过去的 25 年她一直是电视节目导演，她的节目都是有关自然，野生动物和环境的话题。

有时间的时候她在荷兰的自然教育机构做志愿者，因为对大海的热爱，她在 14 年前就开始为海洋保护组织工作。

麦卡非常荣幸能成为探险队员，并非常高兴和大家分享她的知识经历和热情。

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.

中文

延斯出生于丹麦中部的一个农场，后来在哥本哈根担任了多年的空中交通管制员。他现在住在首都哥本哈根南部乡村海岸线附近。

对延斯来说，野生动物是他一生的挚爱，多年来，延斯的旅行足迹基本涵盖了七大洲，在旅行中，延斯会格外关注当地的野生动物。

多年来，延斯在挪威北部与虎鲸一起游泳，在芬兰体验狗拉雪橇，在非洲南部观测丰富的野生动物，也在北极和南极洲见识了壮丽的风景。

延斯是一个喜欢交际并健谈的人，他喜欢与我们的客人分享他的旅行经历——他的热情感染了一批又一批的探险团队。

延斯还对南北极的探险历史——那些一百年前勇敢开启极地探险的人们和经历有着浓厚的兴趣。曾几何时，探险先驱们借助轮船、飞机、飞艇和狗拉雪橇等方式，探索这些被地球遗忘的大陆。

在旅行季的间歇期，延斯会利用业余时间观测家附近猛禽的大规模迁徙，会骑山地自行车、会在斯堪的纳维亚的荒野中徒步旅行，或者尝试飞行一把滑翔机。

现在延斯，实现了成为一名探险导游的梦想，他正满怀激情地期待着他在南极的第一个旅行季，与大家一起分享探险邮轮上的壮阔经历

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.

中文

汉娜在斯瓦尔巴大学做了两年化学师。她出生于车臣，在挪威生活了11年。

她对自然和户外生活的热爱将她带到了挪威北部的特朗姆森，她在完成硕士学位期间并成为极光领队，雪橇犬领队。她的空闲时间都在山间滑雪，徒步，皮划艇，潜水。她花了两年时间在亚洲，非洲，南美洲旅行。在玻利维亚和秘鲁做野生动物救护的志愿者，在伊拉克，卢旺达和埃塞俄比亚做人道主义救援。在她完成学业后，他在挪威作为化学分析师。她对户外生活的好奇和热情将她带到了斯瓦尔巴并在此享受滑雪，带领雪橇犬和发现新地点。她会说法语，英语和挪威语。

Luce Moussiere – Expedition Guide



Luce knew how to swim before she could walk. Originally from Ardèche, a wild and outdoorsy region in the south of France, she has always felt most at home in nature.

She is an Expedition Guide, Polar Dive Guide, Scuba Diving Instructor, lifeguard and Safety Diver for technical diving projects around the world.

She lived in Asia, and Australia and dived all around the world. But after years in tropical waters, it was the challenge of cold environment that truly captivated her. She moved to Iceland to lead expedition in Silfra, the famous fissure in between tectonic plates, in order to train and gain access to the polar regions as a Dive guide.

Not content with just exploring below the surface, Luce expanded her expertise to land and became a full Expedition Guide.

Though not formally trained in science, her curiosity and determination have led her to work in diverse environments — from trekking through Malaysian rainforests and exploring remote coral reefs, to hiking active volcanoes and guiding in the polar regions. There's very little she isn't eager to learn about.

When she's not guiding guests on board, you'll likely find Luce diving, hiking, cooking, or off discovering new corners of the world to explore and learn from.

中文

卢斯·穆西埃（Luce Moussiere）在学会走路之前就知道如何游泳。她是一位年轻的法国潜水教练、游泳教练和徒步向导。在获得神经语言编程学位后，她离开了法国，立志为所有人带来最非凡的体验。

她生活在亚洲和澳大利亚，当她不教授休闲课程时，她参与了多个海洋生物保护项目和珊瑚礁恢复项目，与大堡礁海洋公园管理局合作。她监督勘探活动，调查偏远的未受影响的珊瑚礁系统，然后带队经验丰富的潜水员并与之分享气候变化的影响。她带团私人游艇，邂逅大型海洋生物，如牛鲨、虎鲨、小须鲸和座头鲸。

在热带水域工作了5年之后，随后转向冷水环境，也就是现在她住的冰岛。她训练自己适应并在冰岛的冬季工作，那里几乎没有日光，气温低至零下30摄氏度（-22 华氏度）。她现在正在北美和欧亚板块之间的史费拉（Silfra）清澈的海水中潜水或浮潜。

她专注于技术减压潜水、冰潜、冷潜、深水潜、夜潜、沉船潜水和高氧潜水，并且始终热衷于为自己的职业生涯增添更多技能，以便能够潜越并带队穿越最具挑战性的潜水环境。

当冰岛火山爆发时，她还是一名随叫随到的向导，带队寻找穿过火山地的最佳路线，并安全地带领徒步旅行者目睹这些事件。当她不工作时，你会发现卢斯在峡湾、冰川上徒步旅行，探索冰洞，在北极海藻森林中自由潜水：享受冰岛这片原始土地的巨大游乐场。

Li Ye – Expedition Guide



Li was born and raised in China, her childhood's dream was to travel the world and she had visited more than 50 cities in more than 20 countries around the world.

She fell in love with polar expedition on her first trip to the Antarctica and plans to continue her career in this field to become a professional expedition guide.

Li has wide range of hobbies, she likes calligraphy, incense, tea, sports and travel. When not working in the polar region, Li also likes to try and challenge new things. It's hard to imagine such a slim girl like her once went to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to learn Muay Thai by herself. Li is also an influencer who loves to share her experiences traveling around the world and working in the polar regions.

中文

叶丽在中国出生并长大，她从小梦想是环游世界，她的足迹遍布全球20多个国家，50多个城市。在她第一次来到南极时，她便爱上了极地探险，并计划在这个行业继续深入，成为一名优秀专业的探险队员。

丽的爱好广泛，她喜欢书法，香道，茶道，运动健身和旅行。当不在极地工作时，她也喜欢尝试和挑战新鲜事物，很难想象像她这样一个苗条的女生，曾独自一人去泰国清迈学习泰拳。丽也是一名博主，她喜欢与大家分享她在旅行和极地工作时的所见所闻。

Stella Yao – Translator



Stella Yao grew up in Zhejiang, China and moved to the U.S. about ten years ago. However, she calls the entire vast world home and have been traveling since 2024. She speaks fluent English and Mandarin and works onboard as Expedition Guide / Mandarin Speaker since November 2025.

Animals have always been a big part of Stella's story. She studied Animal Sciences at Cornell University and has spent years working in animal shelters, wildlife rehab centers, and animal welfare NGOs across the U.S., China, and Africa. That's taken her from rescuing stray cats in Beijing, to rehabbing vervet monkeys in Malawi, to implementing whale and shark conservation programs in Washington D.C., and to diving with marine scientists to collect data on sharks and rays in Mozambique.

Before working on expedition cruises, Stella also worked as an investment analyst in the impact and sustainable investing space. But eventually the call to travel, be outside, and get closer to nature got too loud to ignore.

She took the leap, started traveling, and found her way into expedition life, where adventure, conservation, and connecting with people from all walks of life all come together.

Stella brings a lot of curiosity, care, and enthusiasm wherever she goes. She loves sharing what she's learned, learning from others, and helping people feel more connected to Mother Nature, no matter if that happens on a zodiac ride, underwater, or over a cup of tea after a long day out in the cold.

中文

斯黛拉来自中国浙江，大约十年前搬到美国。不过对她来说，整个世界才是真正的家。从2024年开始，她就一直在路上探索不停。她英语和普通话都非常流利，自2025年11月起在船上担任探险向导 / 翻译。

动物一直是斯黛拉生活中不可或缺的一部分。她毕业于康奈尔大学动物科学专业，多年来曾在美国、中国和非洲的动物收容所、野生动物康复中心以及动物福利非政府组织工作。她的经历包括：在北京救助流浪猫、在马拉维参与绿猴的康复工作、在华盛顿特区推动鲸类与鲨鱼的保护项目，以及在莫桑比克与海洋科学家一同潜水，收集鲨鱼和鳐鱼的数据。

在加入探险邮轮行业之前，斯黛拉还曾在影响力投资与可持续投资领域担任投资分析师。不过，比起办公室，她更向往户外、旅行和贴近自然的生活。她开始环球旅行，并找到了属于自己的探险生活。在这里，冒险、自然以及与来自世界各地的人们建立联系完美融合在一起。

无论走到哪里，斯黛拉都带着强烈的好奇心、关怀与热情。她喜欢分享自己的故事，也享受听大家的经历，更希望能帮助每一个人和大自然建立更深的连接，不管是在冲锋艇上看风景、在水下探索世界，还是在寒冷一天结束后，一起喝杯热茶聊聊天。

Zoy Li – Expedition Guide



Originally from China and major in tourism management with bachelor's degree.

Worked for a high-end tailor-made travel agency in China which focused on operating groups to polar region since 2014. There she had several job functions: travel consultant, product planning, sales-support, tour operation & tour leader, and got many chances to lead groups to Arctic, Europe, Central America, Galapagos, South America till Antarctic. In 2019, she started to join the expedition cruises, worked as Interpreter & Expedition guide on board, and had experienced a multiple of wildlife expeditions in various remote areas in this world, and so fascinated by every element from nature, she has great passion on sharing the most breathtaking scenes with every distinguished passenger for the polar region.

中文

来自中国湖南，本科学历，旅游管理专业；

从 2014 年开始，在中国的一家高端定制旅行社工作，主要负责极地地区的团队运营。在那里，她身兼数职：旅游顾问、产品规划、销售支持、出团操作和出行领队；曾带领团队前往北极、欧洲、中美洲加拉帕戈斯群岛、南美洲和南极；

2018年转邮轮行业，在船上担任歌诗达邮轮亚洲航线的旅游经理；从2019年开始转探险邮轮，在船上担任翻译和探险向导。多次参与野生动物探险活动的经历，足迹遍布世界各个偏远地区，逐渐增强了她对大自然各种元素的迷恋，尤其热衷于极地，每年就像动物迁徙一样夏季回到北极，南半球的夏季回到南极。

Ran Chen - Translator



Ran grew up in China and spent six years living and studying in the United States. After establishing her professional roots, her deep alignment with the polar wilderness and photography inspired a pivotal transition—leaving the urban landscape behind to trace her footprints into the high latitudes. The cross-cultural negotiation and high-stakes coordination skills gathered from her previous career seamlessly translated into an adaptive, resilient mindset essential for field operations.

To anchor her passion with practical field expertise, Ran relocated to the Arctic borderlands of northern Norway. There, she completed a rigorous, year-long Polar Wilderness Survival program, mastering winter camp logistics, heavy winter expeditions, and avalanche safety in sub-zero environments—forging a solid foundation for wilderness safety and remote field management.

On board *m/v Hondius*, Ran bridges the gap between international field science and Mandarin-speaking guests, translating daily lectures and safety briefings into precise Mandarin. An avid outdoorswoman and photography enthusiast, she is always ready to drive Zodiacs, assist on deck, and share the untamed beauty of the polar world with you.

中文

陈然来自中国，曾在美国留学与生活过六年。在结束学业并回国工作过一段时间后，对极地荒野与摄影的钟爱，指引她走向了一条完全不同的人生轨迹——选择离开都市的舒适区，将镜头与足迹带向地球的最北端。过往在跨文化沟通与高强度项目统筹中所积累的经验，也成为了她日后在野外环境中沉着应对各种挑战的隐形底气。

为了将这份对自然的热爱转化为过硬的专业能力，她前往挪威北部的极地圈，完成了为期一年的全沉浸式荒野生存与冬季远征实训。在长达数月的极夜与亚零度严寒中，她不仅系统掌握了冬季野外宿营、重装长途远征以及雪崩安全机制，更磨炼出了偏远地区高规格的后勤保障能力。

作为“宏迪斯号（*m/v Hondius*）”上的中文翻译与探险队员，她致力于为华人宾客打破语言与文化的藩篱。作为一名户外与摄影爱好者，她不仅在讲堂里协助极地科学讲座的中文翻译，更期待在冲锋艇和甲板上陪伴大家，一起记录和分享极地荒野的纯粹之美，共同见证这段壮丽的冰雪旅程。

Vincent Groot – Ships Doctor



Dr. Vincent Groot is a Dutch surgeon currently based in New York City, where he serves as a Hepatopancreatobiliary and Transplant Surgery Fellow at NYU Langone Health. With a career spanning the Netherlands and the United States, Vincent brings solid surgical expertise and a calm, approachable manner to his role as Ship's Doctor on this Spitsbergen expedition.

Originally from The Hague, Vincent studied medicine in Utrecht, with clinical electives that took him to Cape Town and Curaçao, experiences that gave him an early taste for medicine in unfamiliar

settings and a habit of seeking out adventures off the beaten track. He holds a PhD in pancreatic cancer surgery and has extensive experience in critical care and emergency medicine.

When not in the operating room, Vincent enjoys playing tennis, travelling, diving, and hiking. The idea of joining a ship expedition first came through his brother, also a doctor and a former Ocean Expedition ship's physician, whose enthusiasm for the experience proved infectious. Spitsbergen's remoteness and untouched nature sealed the deal: few places on earth remain as raw and unspoiled, and Vincent is determined to make the most of every moment on deck and on shore.

Joining an expedition like this is, for Vincent, about more than just medical cover. He hopes to be a familiar and reassuring presence throughout the voyage, someone guests feel comfortable approaching whether for a medical concern or simply a conversation about the landscape passing by.

Whether you need medical attention or simply want to share your enthusiasm for a polar bear sighting, Dr. Groot's door is always open.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Date: 27/06/2026

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

Once onboard and settled into your cabins please join our representatives of Oceanwide in the lounge to hear a presentation regarding the start of our season onboard M/V Hondius

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.

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!



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 28/06/2026

Day 2: Lilliehookbreen & Ny-Ålesund

07.45 Wake-up call.

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

This morning we will be ships cruising 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.

10:30 Please join us for the AECO, Polar Bear safety, and zodiac safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

The briefing in Mandarin will be in the observation lounge at deck 5.
The briefing in English will be in the lecture room at deck 5.

11.45 +/- We invite you to **Deck 3** to collect your Muck boots. Please, bring your thick socks for the perfect fit. Please listen for announcements as we will be calling you down deck by deck.

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

14:00 We invite the **Red group** to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Ny-Ålesund. Followed straight after by the **Blue group** around 14.15. A map will be available at reception for you to take a photo of for orientation. Please have your zodiac lifejackets on and wear waterproof clothing

During our landing in Ny-Ålesund, you can roam freely on the roads within town. You are welcome to visit the shop and museum, but please remove your boots when visiting the shop. Please do not enter any other buildings without permission. Public toilets are available at the harbour office near the dock. Please turn off your Wi-fi and Bluetooth on your mobile phone so as not to interfere with scientific research equipment.

15:00 We invite **Mandarin Speakers** to meet the Expedition Team at Amundsen's Bust for a walk to the mast.

16:00 We invite **English Speaker** to meet the Expedition Team at Amundsen's Bust for walk to the mast.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for our daily recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 29/06/2026

Day 3: Gravneset & Gullybukta

Today we plan to make a zodiac cruise and landing in the stunning Magdalenefjorden. The morning will consist of a landing and zodiac cruise at Gravneset where we will see some whaling history, and a zodiac cruise to look for harbour seals and the Waggonwaybreen Glacier. In the afternoon we will zodiac cruise to the Gullybreen Glacier, and past a walrus haul out.

07:15 Wake-up call.

07.30-08.30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09:00 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a landing at Gravneset in Magdalenefjorden.

09:15 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Gravneset in Magdalenefjorden.

Please note that we will be swapping the groups halfway during the morning

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

Located on the southern shore of Magdalenefjorden, Gullybukta is a small, historically rich Arctic bay surrounded by spectacular jagged peaks and the stunning Gullybreen glacier. There is also a small walrus haul out on the shores that we hope to visit.

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

14:30 We invite the **Blue group** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise

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

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

In the evening we invite you to the bridge and open decks to scout for wildlife as we cruise through Smeerenburgfjorden and the islands of NW Svalbard

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



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 30/06/2026

Day 4: Monacobreen & Texas bar

Today our ship will navigate deep into Liefdefjorden to face Monacobreen, a massive and highly active glacier. Marvel at its towering 50-meter-high ice face as it drops chunks of white and blue ice into the sea. The glacier is named after Prince Albert I of Monaco. He was a wealthy ruler and a true pioneer of early oceanography. Prince Albert led a series of scientific trips to Svalbard between 1898 and 1907. His team mapped and studied this massive glacier during his visits.

07.15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

08:45 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Monacobreen

09:00 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Monacobreen.

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

This afternoon we plan to do a hike at Texas Bar, the site of a legendary trapper's hut built in 1927, nestled along the scenic Liefdefjorden. This historic site offers a glimpse into Svalbard's rugged past and is a great place for a good hike.

14:15 We invite the **long hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a long hike at Texas bar.

14:30 We invite the **medium hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a medium hike at Texas bar.

14:45 We invite the **short hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a short hike at Texas bar.

*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 please do **not** bring the towel from your cabin along.*

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for our daily recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 01/07/2026

Day 5: Ice day

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 spectacular scenery. Listen for announcements regarding wildlife spotting's. If we have wildlife close by, the announcements will only be made inside the ship to avoid disturbing the wildlife.

No 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, we will offer lectures from the team. However, we are planning to keep the first morning in the ice free, so you can all enjoy the magical sea ice without distractions.

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

15.00 Bill invites you to the lecture room for an **English** lecture Arctic Ice.

15.00 Jerry invites you to the lounge for a lecture in **Chinese** on Arctic Ice.

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

19:00 An arctic BBQ dinner will be served on the back of deck 5.
Dress warmly, bring your dancing shoes and enjoy this evening outside with us!

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



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 02/07/2026

Day 6: Second Ice Day

Overnight we plan to stay in the pack ice to continue our search for wildlife in the morning and further explore the Arctic sea ice before turning south again.

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.

No wake-up call again

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

Please all join the expedition team on the bridge or outer decks searching for wildlife

10:00 Please join Jens for his lecture about the fascinating Salomon Andree balloon expedition in the lecture room in English.

10.00 Please join Rose for her lecture about the fascinating Salomon Andree balloon expedition in the Observation Lounge in mandarin.

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

14:30 Please join Hana for her lecture "*One year in the Svalbard*" in the Observation Lounge. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

16:30 A historical movie about Umberto Nobile and his Expedition to the North Pole "*The red tent*" will be played in the lecture room. The movie will be in English with Chinese subtitles.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4. Tonight's dinner will be plated and served at your table so please all make your way to the dining room when dinner is announced.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 03/07/2026

Day 7: Alkefjellet & Palanderbukta

This morning we hope to offer a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet which translates literally to “mountain of the guillemots,”. Alkefjellet is a major bird cliff that is home to around 60,000 pairs of breeding Brünnich’s Guillemots as well as a smaller number of Glaucous Gulls and Kittiwakes. It is also a good place to see Arctic Fox – if we are lucky!

07.15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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

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

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

In the afternoon we hope to offer you a chance for a good leg stretch at Palanderbukta. The landing site is located on Nordaustlandet which is covered for almost 60% by Svalbard’s largest ice cap, Austfonna. The landscape is best described as a polar desert and rarely visited.

14:15 We invite the **long hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a long hike at Palanderbukta.

14:30 We invite the **medium hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a medium hike at Palanderbukta.

14:45 We invite the **short hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a short hike at Palanderbukta.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4. Tonight’s dinner will be plated and served at your table so please all make your way to the dining room when dinner is announced.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 04/07/2026

Day 8: Freemansundet & Boltodden

In the morning, we plan to take you through Freemansundet, the sound between Edgeøya and Barentsøya. Whatever the conditions, it is a great place to look out for bears from the high vantage of the ship. After we have successfully navigated this 35km strait we head directly for our destination of the afternoon on the other side of Storfjorden.

06.00 Start of Freemansundet passage

07.15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09.00 Meike invites you into the lecture room for her lecture on birds of Spitsbergen. This lecture will be given in English and translated into Mandarin.

10.30 A historical movie about Umberto Nobile and his Expedition to the North Pole “*The red tent*” will be played in the lounge given the big interest from all of us to see the movie. The movie will be in English with Chinese subtitles.

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

In the afternoon, we would like to land at Boltodden in the bay of kvalvagen on the east coast of Spitzbergen. Boltodden is a remote cape and wilderness area on the rugged east coast of Spitzbergen, Svalbard. One of the highlights of the site is dinosaur footprints that can be seen in the sandstone. It is also another great opportunity for hiking.

14:15 We invite the **long hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a long hike at Boltodden.

14:30 We invite the **medium hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a medium hike at Boltodden.

14:45 We invite the **short hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a short hike at Boltodden.

18:30 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’. This will be given in Scottish and where possible translated into Mandarin.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 05/07/2026

Day 9: Gashamna & Burgerbukta

In the morning we plan to land at Gashamna, a sheltered bay at the mouth of the rugged Hornsund Fjord, in Southwestern Spitzbergen. Here we hope to go for a long, medium and short hike to explore the local area and see the historic whale bones from the whale hunting days.

07.15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09:00 We invite the **long hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3

09:15 We invite the **medium hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3

09:30 We invite the **short hikers** to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3

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

In the afternoon, we hope to offer a zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta, a scenic bay in Hornsund, southern Spitsbergen, surrounded by towering mountains and impressive tidewater glaciers. Several glaciers flow into the bay, where calving icebergs drift across the sheltered waters. The dramatic scenery, rich birdlife, and constantly changing glacial landscape make Burgerbukta one of the most spectacular fjord environments in southern Svalbard.

14.30 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta.

14.45 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to the Zodiac boarding area on Deck 3 for a zodiac cruise in Burgerbukta.

When you return to the vessel, please leave your clean muck boots 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.



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar bear and ice

Date: 06/07/2026

Day 10: 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.

Passengers on flight SK4491 at 12:15 - **BLUE LUGGAGE TAG** - 10:00 shuttle from Svalbard Butikken to airport.

Passengers on flight SK4497 at 18:30 – **ORANGE LUGGAGE TAG** - 16:30 shuttle from Svalbard Butikken to airport.

Passengers on flight DY391 at 19:55 - **RED LUGGAGE TAG** - 18:00 shuttle from Svalbard Butikken to airport.

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 from flight SK4491 to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the right transport before boarding your bus.

09:00 +/- We will invite all We invite all other guests to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the right transport before boarding your bus.

We will be on anchor and bring you ashore by zodiac, make sure you wear your lifejackets

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." - Thornton Wilder