

Around Spitsbergen, in the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

03rd July 2026 – 12th 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:	Don Buren	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	Sander Witsenburg	[The Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Ian Vicente	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Andrej Abakumov	[Lithuania]
Second Engineer:	Ionut Daraban	[Romania]
Third Engineer:	Twan Boeije	[The Netherlands]
Chief Electrical Engineer	Stefan Kirov	[Bulgaria]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymir Cherdnychenko	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Charlot Laumen	[The Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Edward Nunag	[Philippines]
Sous Chef	Sergiy Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Bosun:	Eniano Agarin	[Philippines]
Bosun:	Raymound Olympia	[Philippines]
Bartender:	Raquel Queri	[Philippines]
Expedition Leader:	Adam Burke	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Beth Hitchcock	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Gabi Kolodko	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Marco Rosso	[Italy]
Expedition Guide:	Werner Kruse	[South Africa]
Expedition Guide:	Clara Iachetti	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Gonzalo Sabattini	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Kana Cheng	[China HK]
Expedition Guide:	Frank Shi	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Xuan Liu	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Yiyuan Fang	[China]
Ship's doctor:	Minke Twijnstra	[The Netherlands]

WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Friday 03rd July, Longyearbyen, Embarkation Day

17:00 GPS Position: 78°18.4' N / 015°16.1' E

Wind: SW-2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +7.2 °C

Our expedition began today in Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost permanent settlement and the gateway to the High Arctic. While some guests had spent several days exploring the town, others arrived just in time for embarkation. Before boarding, many took the opportunity to wander through the colourful streets, surrounded by dramatic mountains and the calm waters of Isfjorden. Despite its remote location and Arctic climate, Longyearbyen offered a warm and welcoming first impression.



In the afternoon, we boarded MV Ortelius, where the expedition team and hotel staff welcomed everyone on board. After settling into our cabins, guests had time to become familiar with their new home for the voyage as luggage was delivered and the ship prepared for departure.

Once all passengers had embarked, everyone gathered in the lounge for the mandatory safety briefing. Following the introduction, we completed the SOLAS muster drill, donning our lifejackets and practising

the ship's emergency procedures under the guidance of the crew. With all formalities complete, Ortelius cast off and began her voyage south through Adventfjorden and into Isfjorden.

Expedition Leader Adam officially welcomed everyone to the voyage, introducing the expedition team and expedition philosophy that would guide the coming days. Rather than following a fixed itinerary, our plans would remain flexible, adapting to weather conditions, sea ice, wildlife opportunities and other factors that make every Arctic expedition unique.

Our first dinner on board provided an opportunity for guests to meet one another and begin sharing the excitement of the adventure ahead. The evening concluded with the distribution of our expedition Muck Boots, essential equipment for the many landings to come.





With preparations complete and anticipation growing, guests retired for the night as Ortelius continued her journey into the Arctic, ready for the first full day of exploration ahead.

Day 2 – Saturday 04th July, Bamsebu and Vårsolbukta

12:00 GPS Position: 77°33.3'N / 015°04.8'E

Wind: S-2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 6.3°C

Our day began with a gentle wake-up call at 07:15 from our Expedition Leader, Adam, and updated us on the day's weather and outside temperature.

After breakfast, we gathered in the lounge for the mandatory AECO and polar bear safety briefing. We learned about the importance of staying safe in the Arctic, the role of our expedition guides carrying rifles for protection, and the strict protocols in place to safeguard both guests and the polar bears that call Svalbard home.





Our first landing of the voyage took us to Bamsebu, a historic beluga hunting station. Around 1930, Ingvald Svendsen established a whaling station in the western part of Ingebrigtsenbukta, with the hut becoming known as Bamsebu. It is estimated that approximately 550 beluga whales were killed here, serving as a poignant reminder of

the region's past.

After a short Zodiac shuttle to shore, we were welcomed by the expedition team. We spent some time photographing the historic hut and the skeletal remains scattered nearby before setting off across the tundra. Along the way, we encountered Svalbard reindeer, Arctic foxes, and a wonderful variety of Arctic wildflowers.

Towards the end of our walk, Marco spotted a familiar furry figure in the distance. It was soon confirmed to be a polar bear. Following established safety procedures, the landing was calmly and efficiently evacuated, with everyone returning safely to the zodiacs and back on board.

Lunch was a welcome reward after an exciting morning. During the meal, we were treated to another special wildlife encounter as a small group of beluga whales was spotted swimming in the distance from the ship—a fitting surprise after visiting the historic beluga hunting station earlier in the day.



Our afternoon landing brought us to Vårsolbukta, home to one of Svalbard's largest little auk colonies. The lush moss-covered tundra here is richly fertilized by hundreds of thousands of little auks nesting on the steep cliffs above, creating ideal grazing grounds for Svalbard reindeer.



The Svalbard reindeer is the smallest reindeer subspecies, with a short neck, short legs, and a thick coat that helps it survive the region's freezing temperatures. Unlike many other reindeer, Svalbard reindeer do not migrate long distances because food is available throughout their habitat. They feed mainly on mosses, grasses, lichens, and other low-growing

plants during the short Arctic summer, storing fat to survive the harsh winter. Due to the



absence of large land predators on Svalbard, these reindeer are relatively calm around humans.

This was a perimeter landing, allowing us to freely explore within the safety zone established by the expedition guides while they maintained a vigilant watch for

polar bears.

We enjoyed several close encounters with grazing reindeer and admired the vibrant tundra landscape. During our walk, we also saw two of the three historic houses in Vårsolbukta. These buildings are connected to the history of the Northern Exploration Company and were constructed by the British prospector Ernest Mansfield during the early twentieth century.

Back on board, we gathered in the bar for our first daily recap and briefing. Adam outlined the plans for tomorrow's adventures before we rounded off an unforgettable first day with another delicious buffet dinner.

Day 3 – Wednesday 05th July, Burgerbukta and Treskelen

12:00 GPS Position: 77°04.5'N / 015°50.8'E

Wind: SW-4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 7.4°C



Our second day of operations began with a gentle wake-up call from Expedition Leader Adam, who greeted us with an update on the morning's weather and our plans for another exciting day of exploration in South Spitsbergen.

Following breakfast, we boarded the

Zodiacs for a scenic cruise into the breathtaking Burgerbukta. Surrounded by towering

mountains and dramatic glaciers, we explored this spectacular fjord from sea level, taking in the silence and grandeur of the Arctic landscape.

One of the highlights of the morning came when a small group of beluga whales appeared nearby. Their distinctive



white bodies glided gracefully through the turquoise glacial waters, providing a memorable wildlife encounter. The beluga whale is a fascinating marine mammal that lives in the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean. It is easy to recognize by its bright white color, rounded forehead, and lack of a dorsal fin, which helps it swim under sea ice. Belugas are highly social animals that live in pods and communicate using a variety of clicks, whistles, and chirps, earning them the nickname "the canaries of the sea." They feed on fish, squid, crabs, and other small marine animals.



As we continued our cruise, countless waterfalls cascaded down the steep mountainsides, fed by melting snow high above. At the head of the bay, a magnificent glacier dominated the landscape, its towering ice front shimmering in shades of blue and white while small pieces of ice drifted silently across the fjord.

After returning to the ship, we enjoyed a well-earned lunch while reflecting on the incredible scenery and wildlife we had experienced during the morning.

In the afternoon, we landed at Treskelen, where guests could choose from a selection of hikes suited to different activity levels.

The long hiking group set off on an ambitious 8-kilometre trek, traversing varied terrain and enjoying sweeping views of the surrounding mountains, coastline, and glaciers. Along the route, they discovered the rich Arctic flora and experienced the remarkable beauty of this remote wilderness.



Meanwhile, the medium and short hiking groups explored the area at a more leisurely pace, taking time to appreciate the vegetation and a few fossils, photograph the striking landscape, and observe the unique Arctic environment. Along the way, fresh polar bear footprints pressed into the muddy ground served as a reminder that we were sharing this wilderness with its most iconic resident.

With everyone safely back on board, we gathered in the lounge for our daily recap and briefing. Adam outlined the plans for tomorrow's adventures, while Marco gave an engaging presentation on the fascinating geology of Svalbard. As recap came to a close, the timing could not have been better—a polar bear was spotted resting peacefully on a rocky shoreline in the distance, providing a fitting finale to another unforgettable day.



Another delicious dinner in the restaurant rounded off a day filled with spectacular scenery, fascinating wildlife, and memorable experiences in the High Arctic.

Day 4 – Monday 06th July, Strongbreen and Russebukta

12:00 GPS Position: 77°33.5'N / 017°37.9'E

Wind: SE-2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 7.5°C

Our day began with an early announcement from the expedition team, informing us that our planned 8:45 AM Plan A landing at Boltodden had to be cancelled due to heavy swell and barrelling waves near the shoreline. Embracing the flexible nature of Arctic exploration, we moved into Kvalvågen and pivoted to Plan B: a spectacular 10:15 AM Zodiac cruise at the magnificent Strongbreen and its adjacent glaciers. For two hours, we navigated the waters surrounding this massive surge glacier—which once extended all the way to the coastline up until 1938—weaving past icebergs that had calved off the ice front to float or ground nearby.



The morning sun caught these crystal-clear ice formations perfectly, refracting a deep, brilliant blue that made the icebergs look like giant sapphires drifting in the sea.



After returning to the ship, we gathered in the dining room at 1:00 PM to enjoy a relaxing buffet lunch. Our afternoon began at 2:30 PM with an enriching mobile photography workshop hosted by Werner, who shared expert tips on capturing the stark beauty of the Arctic using our smartphones. Following the lecture, our ship navigated across Storfjorden while we gathered at 4:00 PM for

an impromptu daily recap. During the briefing, the team shared an exciting update: we were arriving at Russebukta for a 5:40 PM Zodiac cruise around a small archipelago.



We hopped back into the boats right on time, and the cruise delivered unforgettable wildlife encounters. The excursion started with high energy for the birdwatchers in our group as an array of Arctic seabirds, including Eider ducks, Barnacle geese, and Arctic Terns, filled our view. Midway through the cruise, the excitement grew as we encountered a group of walrus lounging near the shore.

The true highlight came near the end of our journey, when the guides spotted a polar fox. The Arctic fox is a small mammal that lives in the cold Arctic tundra. It has a thick fur coat that changes color with the seasons—white in winter for camouflage in the snow and brown or gray in summer to blend in with rocks and plants. Its furry paws, small ears, and bushy tail help it stay warm in freezing temperatures. Arctic foxes eat fish, insects, and berries, and they will also scavenge food left behind by larger predators. Their excellent hearing and ability to survive harsh conditions make them one of the Arctic's most adaptable animals.



Our Zodiacs gently gathered together, everyone scanning the terrain until all eyes locked onto the adorable little fox. With cameras full of incredible memories, everyone returned safely to the ship as we pulled up the anchor and continued our voyage. At 7:30 PM, we sat down for another delicious buffet dinner, which concluded with a delightful surprise as the galley team brought out a beautifully sweet ice cream cake to cap off a perfect day of Arctic adventure.



Day 5 – Tuesday 07th July, Kapp Lee and Sundneset

12:00 GPS Position: 78°05.2'N / 020°45.6'E



Today brought classic Arctic weather—cloudy skies, a bit of wind, and patches of fog. We launched our morning activities facing some wavy ocean conditions at Kapp Lee, a historical site famous for attracting walrus, which in turn drew trappers here in the past. First came the Pomors (Russian hunters) in the early days, followed later by Norwegian trappers. We also learned about the two smaller huts on site; though they hold no ancient

historical value, they were built in 1963 by employees of the Caltex oil company for recreational use. Caltex conducted oil exploration on Edgeøya during that time, but operations ceased permanently when the area was declared a Nature Reserve in 1973.



When we arrived, a hauled-out group of walrus was already there "sunbathing" on the shore, while a few others greeted us from the water—some even swimming closer to our Zodiacs to investigate.

The walrus is a large social marine mammal that lives in the icy waters of the Arctic. It is easy to recognize by its long tusks, thick whiskers, and layers of blubber that keep it warm in freezing temperatures. Walrus use their tusks to help pull themselves onto ice and to defend themselves. They feed mainly on clams, snails, and other shellfish found on the ocean floor.

Though we maintained a respectful 150-meter distance from the walrus on land, their massive bodies were an impressive sight. After spending time with them, we cruised around the back of the island to look for more wildlife and spotted several Common Eiders. Suddenly, a spectacular radio call came through: a guide had spotted a Steller's Eider! This is an incredibly rare species to find in Spitsbergen, as they are typically native to Alaska and Russia. We also encountered numerous Arctic Terns nesting nearby, which naturally meant

an Arctic fox wouldn't be far behind. Sure enough, a few lucky guests managed to spot one on the hunt for eggs.

Following a highly successful Zodiac cruise, we returned onboard to warm up and enjoy a hearty lunch in the dining room. After a brief





rest, our afternoon began with a landing at Sundneset, where we split into long, medium, and short hiking groups:

The Long Hike team trekked up a hill through a dramatic gorge. From the summit, they enjoyed panoramic views of our landing site and the lake below. Guides Kana and Marco shared insights into the local geology before

leading the group back down.

The Medium Hike group headed toward the well-preserved "Würtzburger Hütte." Built in 1959 for a geo-scientific expedition led by German geographer Julius Büdel, the cabin served as a base for geomorphology research until 1967. Afterward, the group continued to the lake to take in the stunning landscape. In a stroke of magic, an Arctic fox trotted right past them—a brief but unforgettable close encounter.

Everyone returned to the ship with wide smiles just in time for our evening recap. Adam outlined tomorrow's plans alongside the expected weather and landing details, followed by an engaging presentation on walrus by Frank.

Eventually the day was wrapped up by a sighting of a Polar Bear discovered by captain



Barria. The individual was found climbing up and down the slope of sedimentary rocks on the southern side of Barentsoya. Although from a distance, we could enjoy the amazing walking and climbing capabilities of these unique animal, completely adapted to thrive in the vastness of the Arctic landscape.



Day 6 – Wednesday 08th July, Torellneset and Alkefjellet

12:00 GPS Position: 79°24.5'N / 020°29.2'E

Wind: SE-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temperature: 3.2°C

The day began as usual with Adam's friendly announcement over the PA system, sharing details on our latitude, longitude, and the outside temperature. However, things changed rapidly, reflecting, once again, the true spirit of an expedition travel.

During our breakfast, the scouting team spotted a polar bear near our planned landing site, prompting an immediate switch to "Plan B": we boarded the Zodiacs and headed out onto the water. For a moment, our excitement and energy dipped; the morning fog obscured the

mountain peaks, and with them, the bear, which had already wandered far enough away to slip out of sight. It was shaping up to be a disappointing morning.



We continued by cruising West towards Torellneset, the triangular cape squeezed in between the southern end of Vegafonna, one of the four ice caps that cover Nordaustlandet.

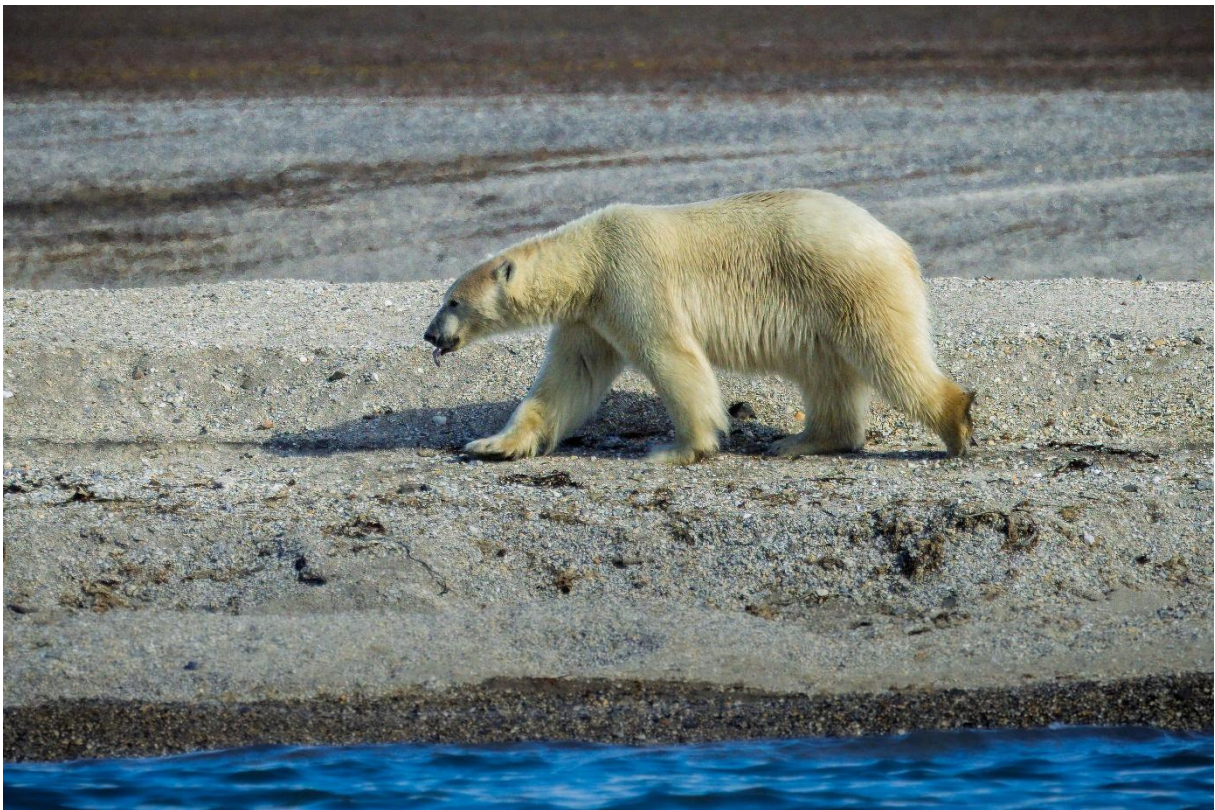


Nordaustlandet is the second-largest island in the Svalbard archipelago and is located northeast of the main island, Spitsbergen. It is dominated by ice and the polar desert with very little vegetation, but it is home to Arctic wildlife such as polar bears, walrus, reindeer, and Arctic foxes. Because of its harsh climate and untouched landscape, Nordaustlandet is an

important area for scientific research and nature conservation.

Our attention caught by a few birds, until a mother walrus and her calf suddenly appeared before us. We were able to witness the fragility of nature and see how life finds a way to thrive in such a hostile environment. Almost in sync with the walrus sighting, the warm air began to clear the mist, and a ray of gentle sunlight pierced the dense clouds, lifting the group's spirits.

Moments later, with the sun already having worked wonders on our mood, Marco on the radio announced that the bear had been spotted nearby, making its way down the mountain toward the sea. And sure enough, we watched it descend to the coast, swimming in front of the ice cap, and finally emerging from the water to walk a few hundred meters.





Polar bears are powerful Arctic predators that spend much of their time roaming across sea ice in search of food. They mainly hunt seals, using their excellent sense of smell to locate breathing holes or resting seals on the ice. Polar bears can travel many kilometers each day and may swim long distances between ice floes when necessary.

Their roaming patterns change with the seasons, following the movement of sea ice where hunting is most successful. These strategies help them find enough food to survive in the harsh Arctic environment.

What a spectacle, what a beautiful animal, so imposing yet so cute. It was a striking, emotional, and deeply moving experience, without a doubt, the best morning we've had so far.

After a delicious lunch and a brief rest, we arrived at our afternoon destination: a cliff teeming with birds. You could feel the energy; some guests mentioned having been there before, and bird enthusiasts recognized the site's name. We boarded the Zodiacs, ready for a cruise to spot some birds. It turned out to be so much more than that.



The Brunnich's guillemot is a seabird that lives in the Arctic and breeds on steep coastal cliffs in large colonies. During the breeding season, each pair lays a single egg on a narrow cliff ledge without building a nest. Both parents take turns incubating the egg and caring for the chick. After about three weeks, the young bird jumps from the cliff to the sea, where the male parent continues to protect and feed it. Brunnich's guillemots have black-and-white feathers,

a pointed bill, and strong wings that help them dive deep underwater to catch fish and other small marine animals.

A few thousands of them soared above the towering vertical dolerite rock face, while waterfalls cascaded all around, creating a breathtaking and surreal landscape. For over two hours, we navigated along that captivating wall, moving beneath the shifting shade cast by the birds in flight. Almost as a parting gift, another polar fox delighted us with its presence near the end of the tour.



This magical day never stopped delighting us, right after dinner, the bridge and staff team invited us to the outer decks to observe a scattered group of Blue whales spouting at the northern entrance of the Hinlopen strait. The blue whale is the largest animal ever known to have lived on Earth, reaching lengths of up to around 30 meters. It is a marine mammal found in oceans around the world, including cold Arctic and Antarctic waters. Despite its enormous size, the blue whale feeds mainly on tiny shrimp-like animals called krill, which it filters from the water using baleen plates. They migrate between feeding and breeding areas, spending summers in colder waters where food is plentiful and winters in warmer waters to reproduce and care for their young.

Day 7 – Thursday 09th July, into the Pack Ice

12:00 GPS Position: 80°59.1'N / 016°47.2'E

Wind: S-1 • Sea: Ice 8/10 • Weather: Fog • Air Temperature: +2.5°C

Today we woke up surrounded by ice. Some of us woke up early and were able to Ortelius reaching the front of the pack ice. During the night we had sailed towards the North, away from land to an area not often visited, as the ice charts had indicated that there is still a large area of pack ice up here.



We will be surrounded by ice the entire day - larger and smaller floes of weathered ice. Throughout the morning, the conditions were excellent, visibility until the horizon and all our eyes were on the search for wildlife, especially for the king of the Arctic. Most of the sea ice we observed was 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 on them, they are close to disappearing - while they are still thick enough to carry large, bearded seals and Polar bears. We saw many seals - both in the water and on the ice - and lots of fulmars, kitty wakes, and guillemots. This morning even an ivory gull was seen. Who would have said that this white ice landscape would allocate so much wildlife.



At 10:00 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.

After some more scouting we were called for a lunch on Deck 4, what a treat! Chef Hans and his team are really good! After lunch, some of us went for a siesta, and others tried to see through the thick fog

that was all around us now, in search for more wildlife.

At 15:00 Gabi give an extraordinary talk about the "Bare necessities", she takes us on a voyage through our relationship with the Polar bears through different time periods and cultures.

After Gabi's talk, they surprised as with a delicious hot chocolate, with rum and cream behind the bridge. Before we left the ice we all gather to



listen to our daily recap - with plans for tomorrow and Gonzalo gave as a short talk on

Hypothermia, definitions, tips, and tips to avoid it. Once more Vova's voice on the PA system announced dinner and we all met at the dining room for a wonderful meal.

The day was not over though! As we finished dinner and we started sailing South two Blue whales were spotted at the distance, captain Ernesto and his bridge team made a great job by taking us closer to them what an encounter! The largest living animal in the world, and we got to see two of them. This trip keeps getting better and better.

This day we reached our further north destination at 80°59.8'N, 016°51.7'E. Throughout the night we are heading South to make our way back to Spitsbergen, the main island of Svalbard, and continue our trip on the West coast.



Day 8 – Friday 10th July – Texas Bar and Monacobreen

12:00 GPS Position: 79°36.2'N / 012°42.3'E

Wind: SE-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temperature: 8.3°C

We began our day at Texas Bar, on the shores of Liefdefjorden, beneath broad mountain slopes streaked with the last patches of winter snow. In the exceptionally calm conditions, the fjord reflected the surrounding peaks almost perfectly, while the low Arctic tundra appeared surprisingly green and full of life. Tiny flowers bloomed between mosses, grasses and dwarf vegetation, bringing splashes of colour to a landscape that spent most of the year beneath snow and ice.



Our hikers set off on different routes to explore the area. Some of us chose the longer and more demanding hike, gradually climbing towards the high viewpoints above the fjord. Others enjoyed shorter walks closer to the landing site, taking time to examine the flowering tundra and appreciate the remarkable silence of the landscape.

A lucky group spotted a female Svalbard rock ptarmigan accompanied by five chicks. The Svalbard rock ptarmigan is the only permanently resident land bird in the archipelago and is superbly adapted to life in the High Arctic. The female's mottled brown summer plumage blends almost perfectly with the stones and vegetation, while the tiny chicks rely on similar



camouflage to disappear into the tundra.

We also visited the historic Texas Bar hut. Despite its inviting name, it was never a bar, but a trapper's cabin built in 1927 by the Norwegian trappers Hilmar Nøis and Martin Pettersen Nøis. Cabins such as this one provided essential shelter for hunters who overwintered in remote parts of Svalbard, living through months of darkness, isolation and severe cold. Nearby, we examined an old fox trap and learned how Arctic foxes were traditionally trapped for their valuable winter fur. The simple wooden structure offered a powerful reminder of the difficult and resourceful lives once led along these isolated shores.

After several hours of hiking, exploring and quietly enjoying the landscape, a surprising number of us decided to experience the Arctic in an even more direct way. One by one, we braved the icy water for a polar plunge—guides included! The swim was brief, the reactions were immediate and the sense of achievement afterwards was enormous.



With a hearty lunch in our bellies, we continued into the inner reaches of Liefdefjorden for an afternoon Zodiac cruise at Monacobreen. This immense tidewater glacier flowed from the interior of northern Spitsbergen before meeting the sea. Its towering front rose above the bay in fractured walls, blue crevasses and sculpted pillars of ice.



Almost immediately, the glacier began to announce itself. Deep cracks and thunderous booms echoed between the mountains as pieces of ice broke away from the front. Several smaller collapses teased us before an enormous section finally detached and crashed into the sea before our eyes. The sound rolled across the fjord, followed by a powerful wave that travelled through the bay and lifted our Zodiacs on the suddenly moving water.

The disturbance also created a feeding opportunity for hundreds of black-legged kittiwakes. The birds rose together in a swirling cloud before dropping back towards the surface, calling excitedly as they searched for prey brought within reach by the turbulent water. In Svalbard, kittiwakes commonly feed on small fish such as polar cod and capelin, as well as amphipods, krill and other small marine invertebrates. Against the immense glacier, their movement filled the bay with sound and life.

The day was not over yet. In the evening, we gathered outside for a special BBQ dinner on deck. Between cups of glühwein, BBQ ribs, corn on the cob and some groovy tunes from the 1990s, we spotted minke whales surfacing around the ship. After the calm beauty of Texas Bar, the explosive



power of Monacobreen and an evening of music, food and whales, it was difficult to imagine a better way to end the day.

Day 9 – Saturday 11th July – Fjortende Julibukta and Ny Ålesund

12:00 GPS Position: 78°57.6'N / 011°52.2'E

Wind: SW-4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 9.2°C

Our last day of this long adventure around Svalbard archipelago started with MV Ortelius dropping anchor at the western entrance of Fjortende Julibukta, right in front of the homonymous glacier. A scenic bay on the western coast of Spitsbergen, named after the French national holiday, Bastille Day (14 July), by early explorers. The area is best known for its impressive tidewater glacier, dramatic Arctic landscapes, and rich wildlife.

Off we went then, right after breakfast for a ride on our favourite rubber boats. First heading North towards the small cliff of metamorphic rocks that wrap up the northern coast. A bit of swell coming from SW and a few 10-15knots of gusts didn't make the job of our guides easy. However with great



steering capabilities, each of them were able to position the zodiac in a good place for nice pictures of the cliffs and the bird nesting on them. The highlight of the morning was certainly the Atlantic Puffin, which comes to Svalbard in small breeding colonies and in the last few



decades have consistently used the Northwestern coast of Spitsbergen island as breeding grounds.

The Atlantic Puffin is a distinctive seabird found across the North Atlantic, where it nests on steep coastal cliffs and offshore islands. Easily recognized by its black-and-white plumage and brightly colored orange, yellow, and blue bill during the breeding season, the puffin is often called the

"clown of the sea." It is an excellent swimmer and diver using its wings to propel itself underwater while hunting small fish such as sand eels and capelin. Puffins spend most of their lives at sea, coming ashore only to breed, where they dig burrows or nest in rocky crevices. Observing them taking off from the ledges above our heads or attempting clumsy landings, was certainly the highlight of



our cruise.



After almost an hour at the cliffs, the guides drove East towards the glacier front. 2km by 14km long, Fjortendejulibreen is a tidewater glaciers which flows westwards from the Isachsenfonna ice field, from where Monacobreen developed as well. Plenty of blue

berg bits and white growlers were scattered around the bay, a sign of recent and important calving events. With enough patience and after a quick and wet shower passed, we could observed a few of these events. Eventually the morning was wrapped up by the appearance of a wonderful rainbow on top of our lovely ship MV Ortelius.

Back on board for lunch, the ship moved South towards the little settlement of Ny Ålesund. A simple disembarkation via gangway kept us dry from the sea during the early afternoon. Ny-Ålesund is one of the world's northernmost permanently inhabited settlements. Originally established as a coal mining town in the early 20th century, it is now an international research community dedicated to studying climate change, atmospheric science, glaciology, marine ecosystems, and Arctic ecology. Scientists from many countries work year-round at research stations in Ny-Ålesund, taking advantage of its unique polar environment.

The settlement is also known for its role in the history of Arctic exploration, as it served as the departure point for several famous expeditions to the North Pole. A story that we heard during our guided walks led by Gabi and Kana to the famous mast that a hundred years ago secured the airship Norge and Italia.

During the course of a rainy afternoon some of us ended with some shopping, a visit of the museum and the postcard delivery, before making our way back to the ship for our final gathering in the lounge to share a glass of Prosecco with captain Barría and Expedition Leader Adam. Word of appreciation were spent to summarize our incredible voyage, filled with beautiful landscapes and unforgettable wildlife encounters. Our memories spirited by the final slideshow that Werner shared with us.

Dinner was served and the whole crew was presented and cheered by Hotel Manager Vova, and eventually one last night at the lounge was shared amongst all of us, whilst MV Ortelius started her voyage back to Isfjorden and our final destination.

Day 10 – Sunday 12th July – Longyearbyen, Kulkaia. Disembarkation Day

07:00 GPS Position: 78°14.6' N / 015°33.2' E

Wind: SE-4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature +7.5°C

A calm morning and the small settlement of Longyearbyen welcomed MV Orterlius, where our journey had begun only over a week ago. Manoeuvred by Captain Barria, aided by the rest of the bridge team, the ship was moored at the Coal pier, whilst a few of us awoken were enjoying a morning cup of coffee in the Lounge.

Adam, woke us at 7:15 a.m. with the usual calm voice. We placed our packed suitcases outside our cabin doors and headed for breakfast, while members of the expedition team collected our luggage and arranged it in neat rows on the pier.

Soon the bus appeared in the distance once again. Slowly pulling up to the gangway, it opened its doors, and we took our seats, saying goodbye to the expedition team. Our unforgettable adventure had come to an end.

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barría, Expedition Leader Adam Burke, Hotel Manager Volodymir Cherdnychenko and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it has been a pleasure and a privilege travelling with you.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1435.5 nautical miles

Most northern point sailed: 80°59.8' N, 016°51.7' E



Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team

Around Spitsbergen
M/V Ortelius 03/07 – 12/07/26

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 03/07 | 1) Longyearbyen - Embarkation |
| 04/07 | 2) Bamsebu - Landing |
| | 3) VÅrsolbukta - Landing |
| 05/07 | 4) Burgerbukta - Zodiac Cruise |
| | 5) Treskelen - Landing |
| 06/07 | 6) Strongbreen - Zodiac Cruise |
| | 7) Hassensteinbukta - Zodiac Cruise |
| 07/07 | 8) Kapp Lee - Zodiac Cruise |
| | 9) Sundneset - Landing |
| 08/07 | 10) Torellneset - Zodiac Cruise |
| | 11) Alkefjellet - Zodiac Cruise |
| 09/07 | 12) Pack ice |
| 10/07 | 13) Texas bar - Landing |
| | 14) Monacobreen - Zodiac Cruise |
| 11/07 | 15) Fjortende Julibukta - Zodiac Cruise |
| | 16) Ny- Ålesund - Landing |
| 12/07 | 17) Longyearbyen - Disembarkation |



Birds and Mammals of Svalbard - OTL 07

English	Latin	Dutch	中文	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Ijsduiker	普通潜鸟										
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Roodkeelduiker	红喉潜鸟				X						
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Noordse stormvogel	暴风鹱	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Jan-van-gent	糖鹅（北鲣鸟）										
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Wilde zwaan	大天鹅										
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Taigarietgans	豆雁										
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kleine rietgans	短嘴黑雁										
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Brandgans	白颊黑雁	X	X		X	X					
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Kolgans	白额雁										
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Grauwe gans	灰雁										
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Rotgans	黑雁										
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Sneeuwgans	雪雁										
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Smient	赤颈鸭										
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Wintertaling	绿翅鸭										
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Wilde eend	绿头鸭										
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Pijlstaart	针尾鸭										
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Kuifeend	凤头潜鸭										
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eidereend	欧绒鸭		X	X	X	X				X	
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Konings eider	王绒鸭					X					
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Stellers eider	小绒鸭					X					
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Ilseend	长尾鸭					X					
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Zwarte zee-eend	美洲黑海番鸭										
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Brilduiker	鹊鸭										
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpensneeuwhoen	岩雷鸟										
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Scholekster	蛎鹬										
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Bontbekplevier	剑鸻		X								
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goudplevier	欧金鸻										
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Drieteenstrandloper	三趾滨鹬										
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Gestreepte strandloper	斑胸滨鹬										
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Paarse strandloper	紫滨鹬			X					X		
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Kanoetstrandloper	红腹滨鹬										
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Bonte strandloper	黑腹滨鹬		X								
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenwulp	中杓鹬										
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Tureluur	红脚鹬										
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steenloper	翻石鹬										
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Rosse franjepoot	红领瓣蹼鹬（灰瓣蹼鹬）										
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Grauwe franjepoot	红颈瓣蹼鹬										
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Middelste jager	中贼鸥										
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Kleine jager	短尾贼鸥		X			X					

Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Kleinste jager	长尾贼鸥									
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Grote jager	大贼鸥	X								
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Vorkstaartmeeuw	燕尾鸥									
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Kokmeeuw	红嘴鸥									
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Stormmeeuw	海鸥									
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Grote Burgemeester	暴风鹱（冰岛鸥/北极鸥）	X			X	X			X	
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Kleine burgemeester	冰岛鸥									
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Zilvermeeuw	银鸥									
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Kleine mantelmeeuw	小黑背鸥									
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Grote mantelmeeuw	大黑背鸥									
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Drieteenmeeuw	三趾鸥	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rossmeeuw	楔尾鸥									
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Ivoormeeuw	白鸥			X						
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Noordse stern	北极燕鸥		X		X	X				
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Zeekoet	崖海鸦							X	X	
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dikbekzeekoet	厚嘴海鸦	X	X			X	X			X
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Zwarte zeekoet	白翅海鸦	X	X		X	X				X
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Kleine alk	小海乌	X	X			X				
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papegaaiduiker	海鹦	X	X	X						X
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Boerenwaluw	家燕									
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Witte Kwikstaart	白鹡鸰									
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Graspieper	草地鹨									
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Tapuit	穗鹲									
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Merel	乌鸫									
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Sneeuwgorst	雪鹀			X	X	X			X	X
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Barmsijs	朱顶雀									
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Ijsgors	铁爪鹀									
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Kramsvogel	田鹀									
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Koperwiek	白眉歌鹀									
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Keep	燕雀									
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Giervalk	矛隼									

MAMMALS

[illegible]

Adam Burke – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Beth Hitchcock – Expedition Guide



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

On the tall ships, Beth visited many places around the Atlantic Ocean from the Azores to Cape Town and Tristan da Cunha. In the austral summers she guides on the ship when they visit Antarctica and South Georgia. These

are ideal places to interpret the landscape and explain to the guests how the glaciers and geological processes have carved what we see today. The incredible human history in these regions has a significant impact on the regional geological story and on our understanding of geology globally.

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

Gabi Kolodko – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Marco Rosso – Expedition Guide



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 Natale, 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.

Werner Kruse - Expedition Guide



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.

Clara Iachetti – Expedition Guide



Clara is Argentinean, she was born in Buenos Aires on January the 21st. Since she was a kid Clara loved the ocean and the adventure. On 2011 she obtained her bachelor's Marine Biology-oriented degree in Biological Sciences, at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and a European M. Sc. in Marine Environment and Resources (MER) in 2012. On 2012 she started working in the Austral Centre for Scientific Investigations (CADIC-CONICET) at Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego (Argentina). Firstly, on her PhD on plankton dynamics, then with her postdoctoral project on harmful

algal blooms, and nowadays as a free-lance researcher. For the last 12 years she has participated of several research expeditions to the South Atlantic and Antarctica, even spending three summer seasons in the South Shetland Islands, at the Argentinean Base "Carlini".

She has been working in Antarctica and the Arctic with Oceanwide as Dive and Expedition Guide since 2022.

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

Gonzalo Sabattini- Dive Guide



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

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

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic

Activities (FAAS_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

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

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

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, 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.

Yu Kan Cheng – Expedition Guide



Kana, with a Chinese name, Yu Kan, pronounced as "You Can," means "creating value in the universe" in Chinese. This belief shapes her perspective that life is about finding meaning, instilling in her a positive attitude that you can achieve anything in life. Yu Kan was born and raised in Hong Kong, a city famous for its towering skyscrapers. But actually, Hong Kong also has stunning coastal and mountain landscapes.

After earning her degree in accounting and working in an office, Yu Kan realized her passion for nature and adventure surpassed her interest in an office job. Seeing people's joy and growth has brought her more fulfillment than working with numbers. Therefore, she transitioned to the outdoor education industry, where she spent 10 years providing experiential learning in an outdoor setting for children aged 8-18. Witnessing the growth and development of these children has been her most significant achievement.

Fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, Yu Kan has had the opportunity to work and live in various countries, including China, Malaysia, Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. Her travels across different continents have made her comfortable and deeply interested in exploring diverse cultures.

In 2024, Yu Kan joined Oceanwide Expeditions. She is excited to offer a unique and memorable experience to all passengers.

中文

Kana, 中文名是宇芹 (Yu Kan), 意为“在宇宙中创造价值”。这一信念塑造了她的人生观, 认为生命的意义在于找到价值, 并给予她积极的人生态度: 你可以在生活中完成一切。宇芹在香港出生和长大, 这座城市以其高耸的摩天大楼而闻名。但实际上, 香港也有迷人的海岸和山脉景观。

在获得会计学学位并在办公室工作后, 宇芹意识到她对自然和冒险的热情超过了对办公室工作的兴趣。看到人们的快乐和成长带给她比处理数字更多的满足感。因此, 她转入户外教育行业, 花了10年时间为8至18岁的孩子提供户外体验式学习。见证这些孩子的成长和发展是她工作中最显著的成就。

宇芹精通粤语、普通话和英语, 这使她有机会在不同国家工作和生活, 包括中国、马来西亚、澳大利亚、英国和新西兰。她在不同大陆的旅行使她对探索多样文化感到舒适和深感兴趣。

2024年, 宇芹加入了Oceanwide Expeditions。她非常期待为所有乘客提供一次独特而难忘的体验。

Frank Shi – Expedition Guide



Frank Shi, also known as Jingjing Shi, is a seasoned translator and free diving instructor. Graduating from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, Frank has extensive work and life experience in English-speaking environments. He has served as a resident instructor in Moalboal, Philippines; Saipan, USA; and Bali, Indonesia, and won the bronze medal in the free diving Asian Cup's no-fins category in 2019.

Frank has a deep passion for nature and wildlife, having grown up watching various wildlife documentaries, from Discovery Channel to the 2024 National Geographic production "The Queen of Nature," which he has watched multiple times. He particularly admires two narrators, China's Zhao Zhongxiang and the UK's Sir David Attenborough.

As a guide / translator, Frank is dedicated to helping the team overcome language barriers and ensuring smooth communication. Additionally, Frank is an avid fitness and outdoor enthusiast with years of Crossfit training experience. He enjoys surfing, skiing, hiking, and motorcycle touring, having logged over 30,000

kilometer on his rides. Whether at work or during leisure time, Frank is always eager to share his experiences and engage in conversations.

中文

史泾京，英文名Frank，是一位经验丰富的翻译和自由潜水教练。他毕业于加拿大蒙特利尔的康考迪亚大学，拥有在英语环境多年的工作和生活经验。史泾京曾在菲律宾墨宝、美国塞班岛和印度尼西亚巴厘岛担任驻店教练，并在2019年自由潜亚洲杯中获得无蹼项目季军。他对自然和野生动物有着深厚的热爱，

从小喜欢观看各类野生动物纪录片，从探索栏目到2024年国家地理拍摄的《大自然的女王》，他都曾反复观看。他特别欣赏两位配音大师，中国的赵忠祥老师和英国的大卫爱登堡爵士。作为翻译，他致力于帮助团队消除语言障碍，确保沟通顺畅。此外，

史泾京还是一位健身和户外运动爱好者，拥有多年Crossfit训练经历，热衷于冲浪、滑雪、徒步和摩托车旅行，累计骑行里程超过3万公里。无论是在工作中还是闲暇时，他都乐于与大家分享经验和交流。

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LIU Xuan – Translator 翻译



Xuan Liu is originally from Jinan, Shandong Province, and is currently based in Beijing, where she shares her home with two cats.

She spent time working with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. She later worked as an international news reporter at China Daily, covering a range of global topics.

In her free time, Xuan enjoys staying active and exploring the outdoors. She has practiced CrossFit for nearly a decade and is an enthusiastic climber, mainly focusing on bouldering and auto belay, with plans to progress to lead climbing. Snowboarding, trail running, and scuba diving are also among her interests—different ways.

Xuan holds a master's degree in Public Relations from New York University and a bachelor's degree in Photojournalism from Renmin University of China in Beijing.

刘玄（也可以叫她“小枣儿”）来自山东济南，目前生活在北京，与两只猫相伴。

她曾在纽约联合国总部参与原住民问题常设论坛相关工作，近距离接触原住民群体的文化传统与生活方式。此后，她加入《中国日报》担任国际新闻记者，报道多元的全球议题。

工作之余，她坚持 CrossFit 训练近十年，同时也是一名攀岩爱好者，以抱石与难度自保为主，并将学习先锋。她还热衷于单板滑雪、越野跑和水肺潜水。

刘玄拥有纽约大学公共关系硕士学位，本科毕业于中国人民大学新闻学院。

Fang Yiyuan - Translator



Fang Yiyuan, 25 years old, is from Shanghai, China. He completed his undergraduate studies in Chinese Language and Literature at Shanghai University and pursued a master's degree in Cultural Studies at Ghent University in Belgium. Now he works for Oceanwide Expeditions as a marketing&sales coordinator in the head office in Vlissingen, the Netherlands.

Fang Yiyuan speaks Mandarin and is proficient in English. He also picks up some knowledge of dutch during his stay in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Fang Yiyuan is deeply interested in the distinct customs, traditions, and historical cultures of Europe and China. During his four years of stay in Europe, he traveled across 10 countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, Norway, Austria, Czech and Germany. Among these experiences, his most unforgettable journey was in Tromsø, Norway.

Additionally, Fang Yiyuan's greatest passion is sports and physical activities. He enjoys Formula 1, football, basketball, and tennis, and often engages in these sports himself. He is excited to explore the magnificent landscapes with everyone on this journey!

Minke Twijnstra – Ships doctor



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.

Around Spitsbergen

Friday 3rd July 2026

Embarkation – Longyearbyen

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)**.

1815 **Welcome Meeting.** Please join your hotel manager Volodymyr in the **lounge (deck 6)** for an introduction to our ship Ortelius.

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.

1900 **Buffet Dinner** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4)

After dinner we will issue rubber boots for everyone.
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.

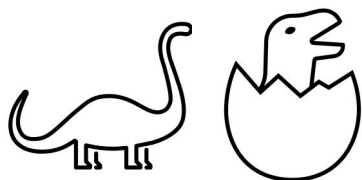
- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0830 **Mandatory Polar Bear safety briefing and Zodiac briefing. All passengers please attend.**
Please be prompt at the meeting. The sooner we finish the meeting, the sooner we can get out and explore!
- +/- 1000 **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.
- 1300 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1530 **Vårsolbukta Landing**
Here we hope to go ashore and observe the birdlife in the scree slopes above us as we take a short walk around the cultural remains where early 20th century mineral exploration have left their mark.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

Around Spitsbergen

Sunday 5th July 2026
Burgerbukta and Treskelen

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0900 **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.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1400 **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.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **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).
- 1015 **Strongbreen Zodiac Cruise**
We hope to set off in the zodiacs to cruise the 5km wide glacier front of Strongbreen which calves impressive dense blue ice into the inlet west of Boltodden.
- 1300 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- TBC **Phone Photography Workshop by Werner**
Werner will announce before he shares some tips on phone photography in Svalbard and how to make the most of the tools we always have to hand.
- TBC **Tectonic Provinces of Svalbard with Marco and Beth**
Marco and Beth will explain the more about the varied landscapes of Svalbard and the role the geology plays in shaping our surroundings. Please listen for announcements.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **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).
- 0845 **Kapp Lee**
This historic site in the northwestern corner of Edgeøya is home to a walrus haul out during the summer months. We hope to zodiac cruise along the coastline.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1415 **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.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **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).
- 0845 **Torellneset Landing**
We hope to land on the south side of Nordaustlandet which is characterised by a vast polar desert. At this site we often have the chance to see long tailed skua, walrus and plenty Svalbard Poppies.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1500+/- **Alkefjellet Zodiac Cruise**
This is 1km long and 160 metre tall bird cliff hosts over 60,000 breeding pairs of Brunnich's Guillemots, along with other bird life, all scrambling for any available ledges during the breeding months. Wrap up warm so you can enjoy the full spectacle.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

We will be arriving at the ice edge around breakfast time and will spend the day in the ice enjoying the frozen wilderness and looking for wildlife. Please join us on deck to help with the search and experience the Arctic pack ice.

If we find any special wildlife, we postpone presentations during the day.

- 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 **Polar Bear Necessities**
To expand on our knowledge of polar bears, please join Gabi in the lounge to hear some facts and their historical significance.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the dining room on deck 4.



Friday 10th July 2026

OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

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| 0715 | Wake up call - Good Morning! |
| 0730 | Breakfast Buffet is available in the dining room for 1 hour (deck 4). |
| 0845 | Texas Bar Landing
This morning we hope to take you ashore at Texas Bar where there is one of the most famous trapper huts in Svalbard. It is also a good place for hiking in the lower hills so we will offer our usual hiking groups.
*At the end of the landing we will offer a Polar Plunge! *
We will bring the towels. |
| 1230 | Lunch Buffet is available in the dining room for 1 hour (deck 4). |
| 1415 | Monacobreen Zodiac Cruise
This afternoon we hope to take you out on a zodiac cruise at the impressive Monacobreen. This is one of the most iconic glacier fronts in Svalbard. It is named after Prince Albert I of Monaco, for his 1898 and 1907 oceanographic expeditions to map the area. Dress warmly and enjoy the ice. We will be looking for seals and other wildlife. |
| 1830 | Recap – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing. |
| 1900 | Dinner is available, please wrap up warm!! |

As we approach Kongsfjord, all Bluetooth and WiFi must be switched off as they interfere with the scientific equipment on shore.

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0845 **14 Julibukta**
This morning we hope to take you on a zodiac cruise in 14th Julibukta where we will cruise some small cliffs where we often see puffins. There are high cliffs where colonies of kittiwakes and guillemots nest and on the slopes below we sometimes see reindeer and foxes. We will cruise up to the glacier for some 'nice ice' views.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- +/-1400 **Ny Alesund Research Settlement Visit**
This afternoon we hope to walk down the gangway and step ashore at the settlement of Ny Alesund which claims to be the most northerly settlement in the world. Please stay on the roads and do not enter any buildings apart from the museums and shop. You can send cards from the most northerly Post Office! CARD PAYMENTS ONLY. There will be a chance to walk out to the historic balloon mast, but you must only do this with a guide. Timings will be arranged. **Do not leave the settlement on your own.**
- 1800 **Captain's Cocktails**
Please join us in the Lounge for a farewell drink with Captain Barría and the expedition team. We will also explain plans for disembarkation in Longyearbyen and look back on our voyage.
- 1900 **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. (4 people).
- 0900 All guests on Flight **SK4493 (13:30)** will take a bus to town Please put an **ORANGE LABEL** on your luggage. Your bus to the airport will leave town at **11.45** Your luggage will be waiting for you at the airport in a truck. (66 people).
- 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.