



Around Spitsbergen, in the Realm of Polar Bear and Ice

12th July 2026 – 21st 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 Barría

[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:	Maksims Lasuks	[Romania]
Third Engineer:	Twan Boeije	[The Netherlands]
Fourth Engineer	Dragisa Gogic	
Chief Electrical Engineer	Stefan Kirov	[Bulgaria]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymir Cherdnychenko	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Charlot Laumen	[The Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
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:	Rustyn Mesdag	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Gabi Kolodko	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Brenya Green	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Rao Xinpeng	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Clara Iachetti	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Gonzalo Sabbattini	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Kana Cheng	[Hong Kong]
Expedition Guide:	Saskia van der Meij	[The Netherlands]
Translator:	Frank Shi	[China]
Translator:	Xuan Liu	[China]
Ship's doctor:	Samuel Fidder	[The Netherlands]

WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Sunday the 12th of July, Longyearbyen, Embarkation Day

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

Wind: SW-8 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Rain • Air Temperature: +4 °C



Our expedition began today in Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost permanent settlement and the gateway to the High Arctic. While some guests had already spent several days exploring the town, others arrived just in time for embarkation. Before boarding, many wandered through its colourful streets, framed by dramatic mountains and the calm waters of Isfjorden.

In the afternoon, we joined MV Ortelius alongside at Kullkaia, where the expedition team and hotel staff welcomed everyone on board. After settling into our cabins and becoming familiar with our new home, we gathered in the lounge for the mandatory safety briefing and SOLAS muster drill, practicing the ship's emergency procedures under the guidance of the crew.

With all passengers safely embarked, Ortelius cast off and began her journey through Adventfjorden and into Isfjorden. Expedition Leader Adam officially welcomed everyone to the voyage, introduced the expedition team and explained the flexible expedition philosophy that would guide the coming days. Rather than following a fixed itinerary, our plans would adapt to weather, sea ice, wildlife and the opportunities that make every Arctic voyage unique.

Our first dinner offered a chance to meet fellow travelers and share the growing excitement for the adventure ahead. The evening concluded with the distribution of our expedition Muck Boots, essential equipment for the many landings to come.

With complete preparations, Ortelius continued into the Arctic night. Tomorrow, the real exploration would begin.



Day 2 – Monday the 13th of July, Lilliehöökfjorden

12:00 GPS Position: 79°20.2'N / 011°41.7'E

Wind: W-4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Rain/Fog • Air Temperature: 3°C

Day two began with an important reminder of life in the High Arctic: here, plans are only ever provisional. Strong westerly winds kept us on board, teaching us our first lesson in expedition travel—the weather is always in charge. As Ortelius rolled through the two meter swell, many of us began earning our sea legs, embracing the rhythm of life at sea and the excitement of not knowing exactly what the Arctic would reveal next.

Seeking calmer waters, we navigated into Lilliehöökfjorden, where the magnificent glacier of the same name towered before us. The sheltered fjord provided a welcome break from the motion, allowing us to enjoy lunch while taking in the spectacular scenery. Sometimes, the best discoveries are the unplanned ones.



As we continued our journey north, we gathered in the lecture room for Gabi's presentation on Roald Amundsen. Looking beyond the famous achievements, we gained a glimpse into the explorer's character, motivations and remarkable life—an inspiring introduction to one of the Arctic's greatest figures as we followed in the wake of polar history ourselves.



Continuing north, we passed through the narrow Sorgattet Strait, leaving Moseøya to port before entering the sheltered waters of Smeerenburgfjorden, nestled between Danskøya and the northwestern coast of Spitsbergen. Here we were rewarded with wonderful wildlife encounters as walruses repeatedly surfaced and dived in search of food, while the skies filled with kittiwakes, fulmars and glaucous gulls, ever watchful for feeding opportunities.

During the evening recap, plans for tomorrow were revealed, and anticipation quickly spread throughout the ship. Although our first full day had unfolded differently than expected, it had already captured the true spirit of Arctic exploration—adapting to nature, enjoying unexpected moments, and discovering that the journey itself is every

bit as rewarding as the destination. We ended the day with a peaceful dinner in the shelter of the fjord, eager for whatever adventures tomorrow might bring.

Day 3 – Tuesday the 14th of July, Texas Bar and Monacobreen

12:00 GPS Position: 79°33.7'N / 012°33.1'E

Wind: SW-5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 5°C

Our first full day of operations began in one of northern Spitsbergen's most beautiful fjords—Liefdefjorden. Our destination for the morning landing was the historic Texas Bar, and excitement was high as we prepared to finally set foot on Arctic tundra. Conditions were exceptionally calm, with the fjord mirroring the surrounding peaks almost perfectly. As we approached the shore by Zodiac, the landscape revealed itself in vivid shades of green, dotted with tiny Arctic flowers blooming among mosses, grasses and dwarf shrubs.

After landing, everyone gathered at the historic Texas Bar hut. Despite its inviting name, Texas Bar was never a bar, but a trapper's cabin built in 1927 by Norwegian trappers Hilmar Nøis and Martin Pettersen. Cabins like this provided vital shelter for hunters who spent long, dark winters in some of the most remote corners of Svalbard.



Guests then set off on a choice of long, medium and leisure hikes. The long hikers climbed to spectacular viewpoints overlooking Liefdefjorden and Monacobreen, while others explored the flowering tundra closer to the landing site, taking time to appreciate the remarkable silence and beauty of the Arctic landscape.

After several hours ashore, a surprising number of us decided to experience the Arctic from an even more direct perspective. One by one, we braved the icy water for a polar plunge. It was over in seconds, but the exhilaration—and sense of achievement—lasted much longer.



Back on board, we enjoyed another delicious lunch before continuing deeper into Liefdefjorden for an afternoon Zodiac cruise at Monacobreen. This immense tidewater glacier flows from the interior of northern Spitsbergen before meeting the sea, its towering front rising above the bay in fractured walls, deep blue crevasses and sculpted pillars of ice.

As we approached, the air grew noticeably colder and the glacier came alive. Deep cracks echoed across the fjord as ancient ice

shifted, while thunderous booms rolled between the mountains. Then came the moment everyone had hoped for: a large section of the glacier calved into the sea, sending towering blocks of ice crashing into the water and creating waves that rippled across the bay.

Drifting through the brash ice, we found the glacier front teeming with wildlife. Kittiwakes, Brünnich's guillemots and Arctic terns fed actively on polar cod, capelin and the rich abundance of amphipods, krill and other marine life concentrated by the glacier. Against the immense wall of ice, their constant movement and calls filled the fjord with energy and life.



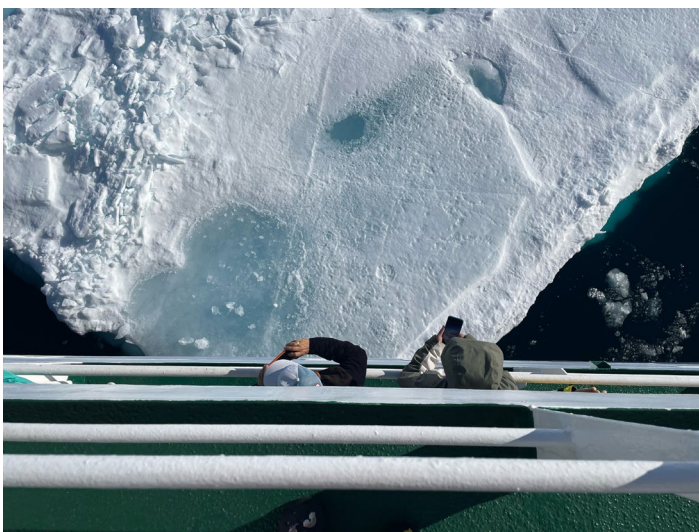
After nearly three unforgettable hours at Monacobreen, we slowly made our way back to Ortelius for the evening recap and another wonderful dinner, reflecting on a day that had delivered exactly the kind of Arctic adventure we had all been hoping for.

Day 4 – Wednesday the 15th of July, into Pack Ice

12:00 GPS Position: 80°45.7'N / 014°03.3'E

Wind: W-4 • Ice: 7/10 • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: 1°C

Today we awoke surrounded by sea ice. Some early risers were already on deck as Ortelius reached the edge of the pack ice under glorious Arctic sunshine. The frozen seascape stretched all the way to the horizon, an endless mosaic of white and blue illuminated by the low morning light. During the night we had sailed north, far from land, into an area rarely visited. Satellite ice charts had shown that a large expanse of pack ice remained here, offering us a unique opportunity to experience one of the Arctic's most remarkable environments.



For the entire day we navigated among ice floes of every shape and size. Visibility was exceptional, allowing us to scan the horizon in every direction as everyone eagerly searched for wildlife—especially the king of the Arctic. Most of the ice surrounding us was first-year sea ice, formed during the previous winter and destined to melt away before the next. Many floes were decorated with brilliant turquoise melt ponds, while others were riddled with holes, signs of a season nearing its end.



Although no bears appeared today, the ice was full of life. Bearded seals lounged peacefully on the floes while others surfaced alongside the ship. Fulmars, kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots accompanied us throughout the morning, and lucky observers even spotted the elegant ivory gull, one of the Arctic's most iconic birds. It was remarkable how such an apparently barren landscape could support so much life.

At 10:00, Rustyn invited us to the lounge for an engaging lecture on all things ice, explaining how it forms, the different types of ice, it's behavior and characteristics.

Following another morning of wildlife watching, we enjoyed a delicious lunch before some guests took the opportunity to rest while others remained on deck as fog slowly drifted across the ice, transforming the landscape into an almost dreamlike world.



In the afternoon, Gabi presented her lecture, "The Bear Necessities," taking us on a fascinating journey through humanity's changing relationship with polar bears across cultures and centuries. From mythology and exploration to hunting, zoos and modern conservation, the talk offered a unique historical perspective on one of the Arctic's most iconic animals.

Afterwards, the expedition team surprised everyone with hot chocolate, topped with whipped cream and a splash of rum for those who wished, served behind the bridge as we enjoyed our final moments among the drifting ice.

Just when it seemed the day could not offer any more surprises, the bridge announced whales. As we sailed south away from the ice, we first encountered a magnificent fin whale, the second-largest animal on Earth. Shortly afterwards, an even greater prize appeared—a blue whale. Captain Ernesto and the bridge team carefully manoeuvred Ortelius to give everyone unforgettable views of the largest animal ever to have lived on our planet. Watching this gentle giant surface against the vast Arctic Ocean was a truly humbling experience and a perfect finale to an extraordinary day.

Today we reached the northernmost point of our voyage at **80°48.952'N, 13°54.549'E**. During the night, Ortelius turned south once more, setting course for the west coast of Spitsbergen, where new landscapes and adventures await us.



Day 5 – Thursday the 16th of July, Alkefjellet, Torellneset and Bråselbreen

12:00 GPS Position: 79°34.7'N / 019°36.2'E

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

What a day this turned out to be. Our planned wake-up call from Expedition Leader Adam was scheduled for 07:15, but an hour earlier, at 06:15, his calm voice came over the intercom with the kind of news every Arctic traveller hopes to hear: "Polar bear ahead."



Still nearly two nautical miles away, there was no need to rush. Thanks to the sharp eyes and years of experience of the bridge team, we could already follow the bear as it strolled leisurely along the shoreline. From Gabi's lecture the previous day, we knew that although a polar bear may appear relaxed, it can still cover around five kilometres an hour.

Its creamy-white fur stood out beautifully against the grey-brown coastline as the captain expertly positioned Ortelius to give everyone spectacular views. Just as the bear disappeared behind the glacier at the far end of the bay, breakfast was announced—perfect timing.

Inspired by such a memorable start, we immediately switched to Plan B. Instead of our original morning landing, we set out on a Zodiac cruise in search of the bear. Although we never relocated our first visitor, the search rewarded us with breathtaking views of Gimlebreen and several walrus resting on the sea ice. As we returned towards

Ortelius, the bridge team located another polar bear, giving us a second excellent sighting before we enjoyed a well-earned coffee break. Meanwhile, the ship repositioned to our original destination: the towering bird cliffs of Alkefjellet.



Nothing quite prepares you for Alkefjellet. Rising almost 100 metres above the sea, the basalt cliffs were alive with around 60,000 pairs of Brünnich's guillemots, packed shoulder to shoulder on impossibly narrow ledges. Rather than building nests, they laid their single pear-shaped eggs directly on the bare rock, their distinctive shape helping prevent them from rolling off the cliff. Hundreds of birds constantly streamed overhead or plunged into the sea, creating an unforgettable chorus of calls and beating wings. Below the cliffs, opportunistic Arctic foxes searched for eggs and fallen chicks among the rocks, moving with surprising speed despite their small size.

After lunch and a short break, we crossed to the southern shores of Nordaustlandet, Svalbard's second-largest island. While around 80% of the island lies beneath an immense ice cap, the raised beaches and tundra of Torellneset are remarkably ice-free during summer. Here we encountered a large herd of walrus hauled out on the beach before stretching our legs on a gentle walk across the colourful tundra. Delicate Arctic flowers, including the iconic Svalbard poppy, brightened the landscape, a striking reminder of how much life flourishes during the brief Arctic summer.



Following another excellent dinner, we sailed towards one of the great natural wonders of the Arctic: Bråsvellbreen, the longest glacier front in the Northern Hemisphere, stretching for around 160 kilometres. Shortly after 21:30 we arrived at this immense wall of ice, forming part of the vast Austfonna Ice Cap. Although fog gradually drifted in, the bridge team carefully manoeuvred Ortelius close enough for us to appreciate the sheer scale of this extraordinary glacier before we continued south towards tomorrow's destination.



From unforgettable polar bear encounters and bustling seabird colonies to walrus, Arctic tundra and one of the world's largest ice caps, today showcased the incredible diversity of Svalbard. It was a day few of us will ever forget.

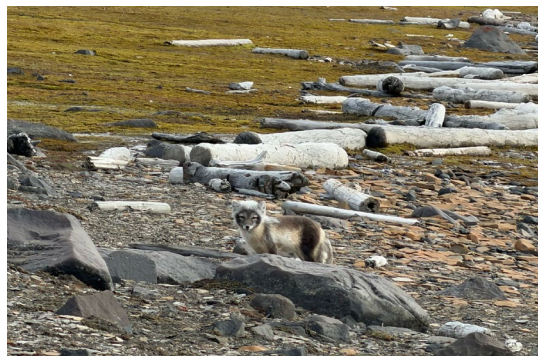
Day 6 – Friday the 17th of July, Sundneset and Kapp Lee

12:00 GPS Position: 78°05.2'N / 020°45.5'E

Wind: S-1 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 6°C

After another hearty breakfast, it was time to board the Zodiacs and head ashore at Sundneset. The weather was once again on our side, promising another wonderful day of exploration. The long hikers landed first to give themselves enough time to complete their route, while the medium and leisure groups followed shortly afterwards.

As the morning unfolded, everyone found their own way of enjoying this beautiful corner of Svalbard. The hikers climbed through the rugged landscape, taking in sweeping views of the surrounding mountains and fjords, while the beachcombers explored the shoreline, discovering the intricate details of the Arctic tundra beneath their feet.



Then the radio crackled.

The expedition team had spotted a polar bear on land, not far from the route of the long hikers. In an instant, the atmosphere shifted from peaceful exploration to calm professionalism. The decision was made to evacuate the shore.



Our guides quickly gathered their respective groups while keeping a constant watch on the bear and its movements. The beachcombers, closest to the landing site, boarded the Zodiacs first, followed by the medium hikers. Finally, the long hikers, who had been nearest to the bear, safely returned to the beach and boarded the waiting boats.

Fortunately, the bear showed little interest in our presence, allowing the operation to remain calm and orderly. Although everything unfolded smoothly, it was a powerful reminder that we are visitors in the Arctic. Wildlife always has the right of way, and the vigilance, experience and teamwork of the expedition staff ensured a safe outcome for everyone.

In the afternoon, we headed out once more for a Zodiac cruise at Kapp Lee, on the eastern coast of Edgeøya. This historic site offers a fascinating glimpse into Svalbard's whaling and trapping past while also being one of the archipelago's finest places to observe walrus.



It did not take long before we were surrounded by the unmistakable sights, sounds—and smells—of a large walrus haul-out. Curious individuals slipped into the water to investigate us, swimming surprisingly close to the Zodiacs before returning to the beach. Watching these enormous marine mammals move so gracefully through the water was a memorable experience.



The rugged coastline was alive with wildlife. Glaucous gulls and Brünnich's guillemots patrolled the cliffs and shoreline, while a large flock of pink-footed geese added even more life to the landscape. Towering mountains, dramatic skies and the rich history of Kapp Lee combined to create another unforgettable afternoon in the Arctic.

As we returned to Ortelius, there was plenty to reflect on. From an unexpected polar bear evacuation to close encounters with walruses, the day had once again reminded us that no two days in Svalbard are ever the same. After another excellent dinner on board, we settled in for the evening, eager to discover what tomorrow would bring.

Day 7 – Saturday 18th of July, Burgerbukta

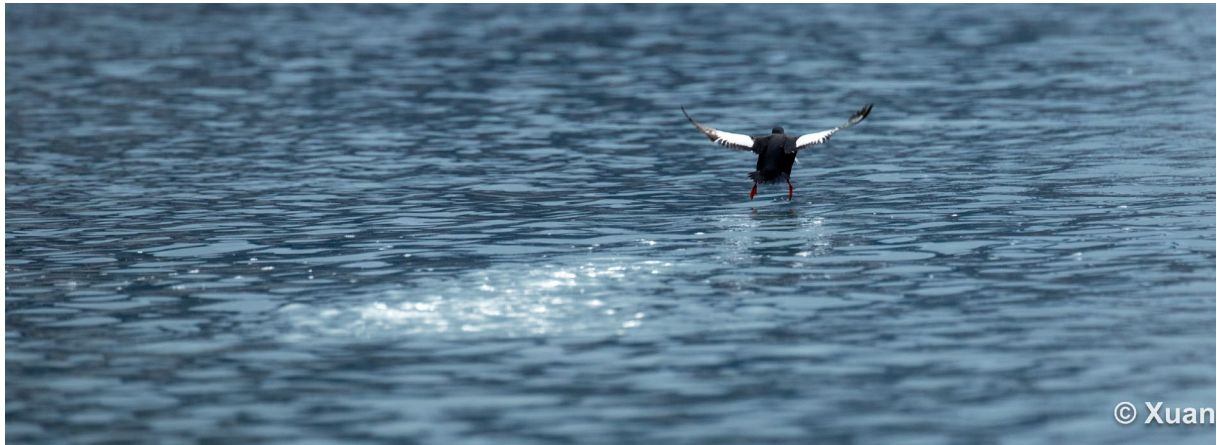
12:00 GPS Position: 77°02.6'N / 015°54.1'E

Wind: N-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: +6°C

Overnight, Ortelius sailed south to reach Burgerbukta in time for our morning Zodiac cruise. Before turning into the bay, conditions had us all wondering whether the operation would be possible. Whitecaps rolled across the sea, strong winds swept the coast and low clouds hid the mountains. It seemed nature had other plans. Then, as Captain Ernesto guided us into the shelter of the bay, everything changed. The sea became calm, the wind eased, and the clouds slowly lifted, revealing the dramatic peaks and breathtaking scenery that surrounded us.

With perfect conditions at last, all Zodiacs were launched for a three-hour cruise through this spectacular glacial landscape. Iron-rich mountains glowed in shades of red and orange, while countless waterfalls tumbled from hanging glaciers into the fjord below. Wildlife was everywhere: black, common and Brünnich's guillemots shared the cliffs with little auks, eiders, kittiwakes and northern fulmars. We slowly navigated between impressive icebergs that had recently calved from the glacier, listening to the gentle crackling and popping of the brash ice beneath our boats. Among the ice floes,

a curious bearded seal briefly surfaced to inspect us before disappearing back into the icy water.



We continued deeper into the bay towards the glacier front, the highlight of the morning. Although there was little active calving, the towering wall of ice clearly showed the marks of years of retreat. As the Arctic light shifted, the glacier transformed from minute to minute, with sunshine breaking through the clouds before giving way once again to dramatic shadows. Eventually, katabatic winds descended from the glacier, bringing colder air and a light drizzle, reminding us that it was time to return to the comfort of Ortelius.

Back on board, we sailed towards our planned afternoon landing at Gåshamna, where several hiking options had been prepared. Unfortunately, the weather that had spared us earlier had caught up with us. After careful assessment, the bridge and expedition team decided conditions were no longer suitable for a safe landing. Once again, nature made the final decision.



The unexpected afternoon aboard proved just as rewarding. Over a warm cup of tea, Clara and Gonzalo introduced us to the fascinating world beneath the Arctic surface with an engaging lecture on polar diving, revealing a hidden ecosystem few of us will ever have the chance to witness firsthand.

As the weather eased later in the day, the expedition team surprised us with a very special Arctic evening. Dinner was served on the open deck, where the galley team prepared a delicious Arctic BBQ complete with grilled favourites, corn on the cob and warm drinks. Surrounded by glaciers and mountains, guests and crew gathered together to celebrate another unforgettable day. Before long, music filled the deck and what began as dinner turned into an evening of dancing, bringing together different nationalities, generations and cultures. It was a wonderful reminder that some of the best expedition memories are made not only ashore, but also together on board.

Day 8 – Sunday 19th of July, Colesbukta

12:00 GPS Position: 77°55.1'N / 013°12.2'E

Wind: NW-6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +4°C

We awoke with plans for a morning landing at Bamsebu, a small hunting cabin on the shores of Van Keulenfjorden, famous for the many beluga whale skeletons that still lie scattered along the beach—a reminder of Svalbard's commercial hunting era. As we enjoyed breakfast, however, the Arctic reminded us once again who makes the final decisions.



Although the forecast had looked promising, the winds had been underestimated. Gusts quickly strengthened to more than 40 knots, whipping across the fjord and making a safe landing impossible. Rather than disappointment, there was a familiar feeling throughout the ship. By now, we had all learned to put on our expedition hats, embrace the unexpected and look forward to discovering what Plan B would bring.

The bridge team turned Ortelius north in search of calmer waters, carefully navigating towards the shelter of Colesbukta. By lunchtime we had arrived in much gentler conditions, and before long the Zodiacs were once again lowered, ready to take us ashore.

Colesbukta offered a completely different atmosphere from anywhere we had visited so far. Once an important Russian coal mining settlement, the bay still holds the remains of abandoned buildings, rusting machinery and old infrastructure dating back to the Soviet era. Long since reclaimed by nature, the settlement now stands silent beneath the surrounding mountains—a fascinating place where Arctic wilderness and human history exist side by side.

Our afternoon hike took us through this haunting landscape, where weathered buildings, empty windows and forgotten equipment seemed frozen in time. The silence was almost tangible. Some groups paused along the route for a few minutes of complete stillness, simply listening to the wind and absorbing the atmosphere. In those quiet moments, Colesbukta felt almost otherworldly—peaceful, melancholic and deeply reflective, inviting us to imagine the lives once lived in this remote corner of Svalbard.



As we wandered between relics of the mining settlement and across the surrounding tundra, it became clear how quickly nature is reclaiming what people once built here. Mosses, lichens and Arctic flowers now soften the abandoned structures, while seabirds and reindeer have become the bay's most common inhabitants.

Back on board, conversations over dinner reflected on yet another day that had unfolded very differently from the original plan. Once again, flexibility had rewarded us with an experience few had expected. Instead of Bamsebu, we had discovered one of Svalbard's most atmospheric historical sites—a place where history, wilderness and silence combined to create a truly unforgettable afternoon.

Day 9 – Monday the 20th of July, Selmaneset and Alkhornet

12:00 GPS Position: 78°14.5'N / 013°56.9'E

Wind: SW-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +5°C

Our final full day of exploration began at Selmaneset, where we stepped ashore to discover one of Svalbard's remarkable geological treasures. This remote headland is renowned for its fossil-rich limestone, formed over 400 million years ago when these rocks lay beneath a warm, tropical sea near the Equator. As we wandered across the weathered ground, many of us searched for beautifully preserved fossil corals, brachiopods, crinoids and other ancient marine creatures, each one offering a fascinating glimpse into an Arctic that looked unimaginably different from today.



Whether joining the longer hike or taking a leisurely stroll along the shoreline, it was impossible not to pause and imagine the extraordinary journey these rocks have taken through time—traveling across continents before becoming part of the High Arctic landscape we were exploring today.

After another excellent lunch on board, we sailed to our final landing of the voyage at the spectacular bird cliffs of Alkhornet. Towering dramatically above the entrance to Isfjorden, these fertile cliffs support thousands of nesting seabirds whose nutrients have transformed the surrounding tundra into one of western Spitsbergen's richest habitats.



The wildlife certainly lived up to Alkhornet's reputation. Arctic foxes were exceptionally active beneath the cliffs, taking advantage of the abundance of birds and food brought down from the colonies above. Some particularly lucky guests counted as many as nine foxes, darting across the tundra, resting among the rocks or carrying food back towards their dens. It was a remarkable finale to a voyage filled with

unforgettable wildlife encounters.

Adding to the magic were several Svalbard reindeer calves, peacefully resting among the lush green tundra while their mothers grazed nearby. Perfectly camouflaged and lying almost motionless, they rewarded careful observers with some wonderfully intimate moments and a fitting reminder that the brief Arctic summer is a season of new life.



As we returned to Ortelius, there was a growing sense that our expedition was drawing to a close. During the evening, we gathered for the traditional Captain's Cocktails, celebrating an extraordinary circumnavigation of Spitsbergen. Kana's beautiful slideshow allowed us to relive the highlights of the voyage, from glaciers and pack ice

to polar bears, walruses and countless unforgettable landscapes. As the final photographs faded from the screen, the lounge erupted into a heartfelt standing ovation for the captain, expedition team, hotel staff and crew, whose passion and dedication had made the journey so memorable.

It was a perfect ending to an incredible expedition. Together, we had completed a full circumnavigation of Spitsbergen, experienced the Arctic in all its diversity, and created memories that will stay with us long after the voyage has ended.

Day 10 – Tuesday the 21st of 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

The waters of Isfjorden were calm as MV Ortelius made her final approach to Longyearbyen, completing our circumnavigation of Spitsbergen. Just over a week earlier, this had been the place where excitement and anticipation filled the air. Now, as Captain Ernesto Barría gently brought the ship alongside the Coal Pier with the support of the bridge team, those same mountains welcomed us back.

The first guests were already awake, quietly enjoying one last cup of coffee in the lounge while watching Longyearbyen slowly come into view. At 07:15, Adam's familiar voice echoed through the ship one final time. Suitcases were placed outside our cabin doors, breakfast was shared once more, and, behind the scenes, the expedition team carefully organised our luggage on the quay with the same dedication they had shown throughout the voyage.

Over the past days, we had found polar bears across distant shores, drifted among sea ice at almost 81° north, listened to glaciers breathe, walked through abandoned settlements and ancient landscapes, watched Arctic foxes beneath towering bird cliffs, and discovered that the Arctic is as much about quiet moments as extraordinary wildlife. Every change of plan became a new opportunity, and every landing another reminder that the greatest privilege here is simply to witness nature on its own terms.

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barría, Expedition Leader Adam Burke, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherdnychenko, and every member of the crew, expedition team and hotel staff aboard MV Ortelius, thank you for sharing this remarkable journey with us.

Until we meet again—fair winds and following seas.

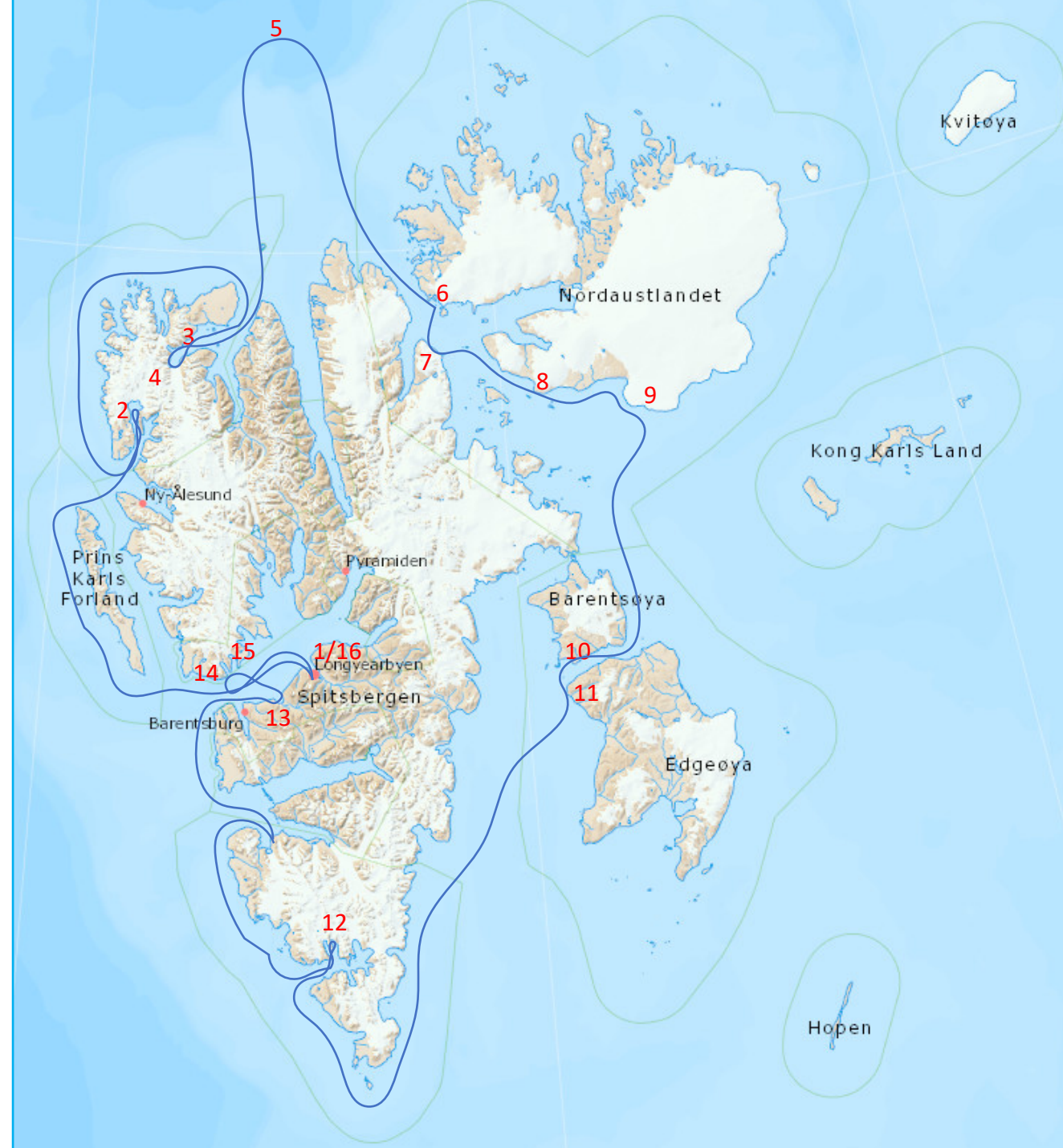
Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1057.9 nautical miles



Around Spitsbergen

M/V Ortelius 12/07 – 21/07/26

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 12/07 | 1) Longyearbyen - Embarkation |
| 13/07 | 2) Lilliehöökbreen - Ships Cruise |
| 14/07 | 3) Texas bar - Landing |
| | 4) Monacobreen - Zodiac Cruise |
| 15/07 | 5) Pack ice |
| 16/07 | 6) Brageneset - Zodiac Cruise |
| | 7) Alkefjelet - Zodiac Cruise |
| | 8) Torellneset - Landing |
| | 9) Bråsvellbreen - Ships Cruise |
| 17/07 | 10) Sundneset- Zodiac Cruise |
| | 11) Kaap Lee - Landing |
| 18/07 | 12) Burgerbukta - Zodiac Cruise |
| 19/07 | 13) Colesbukta - Landing |
| 20/07 | 14) Selmaneset - Landing |
| | 15) Alkhornet - Landing |
| 21/07 | 16) Longyearbyen- Disembarkation |



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.

Rustyn Mesdag – Asst. Exp. Leader



Rustyn Mesdag was born in Seattle, Washington. He was working as an alpine guide, when in 2004 he relocated to Chilean Patagonia where he started a guide service outside of Torres del Paine National Park, specializing in long distance treks and big wall climbing.

For 25 years he has been leading climbers, travelers and trekkers through the most extreme terrains around the world. Aside from the guide service, he moonlighted as a travel writer, published an English speaking travelers newspaper in Patagonia, operated equipment centers & immigrated between four countries.

Always looking for the next adventure, Rustyn still finds himself working around the world, in such places as South America, Antarctica, Canada, Greenland, Svalbard, Iceland, the Amazon and East Africa - helping others explore. Rustyn speaks English, Dutch and Spanish and is more than happy to sit and spend time discussing world travels, off-grid living, alpine climbing and the in's & out's of cold weather equipment management.

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.

Brenya Green – Expedition Guide



Brenya grew up in a small town along the Grand River in Southern Ontario, Canada. After relocating to Toronto to pursue a career in Social Work, her journey took an unexpected turn into the world of expedition ships and has been in the industry since 2016.

Her primary focus over the years has been the polar regions, Canadian Arctic, Greenland, and Antarctica, but she has also worked in Scotland, Iceland, Seychelles, and Madagascar and has often found herself spending more time at sea than on land. Through the years, she has filled many different roles from

office leadership to field guide.

When she's not on board, Brenya is focused on building her off-grid cabin located in Washington State.

Xinpeng Rao - Expedition Guide



Rao was born in Harbin China, the city full of snow and ice. This is still the reason he gives to others that he is really afraid of hot, he is a true northern man.

His hometown made him full of love in ice and ocean. After he retired from CAPF army and finished college in 2011, he works as an international tour leader in Travel agency for 6 years, during that time, he first went to Europe for western history, then Africa for wildlife.

After his first time in Antarctica, he actually found that most of the information written in Chinese such as Baidu in some common sense about Polar region were totally wrong. Then he decided to make some change.

Now 5 years since that first tour leader trip, during this time he tried to learn anything he could. He has some friends also working in polar region as a staff or a translator. They together making Science popularization in China.

Rao always encourage people to learn from the place they have been. Now the world changing so fast, every modern city looks like same. Original culture and wild environment were taken place by “modern”. That is also the reason why now the wildlife tour is more and more popular in tourism industry.

中文

饶出生在哈尔滨这座充满冰天雪地的城市，这也是他非常怕热的理由——因为他是北方人。

家乡让他从小就爱上了冰雪和海洋。2011 年，他从武警部队退役，并在大学毕业后，在旅行社担任了 6 年的国际领队，在旅行的过程中，他先是去欧洲学习西方历史，然后去了非洲学习野生动物。

在他第一次去南极后，他发现实际上大多数国内书写的知识，比如百度百科，在关于极地的许多常识信息都是完全错误的。从此他决定做些改变。

现在距离他第一次领队旅行已经 5 年了，在这段时间里，他试图在船上学习任何他能学到的东西。他有一些朋友也在极地地区作为探险队或翻译。他们一同试图在国内进行科普教育。

他总是鼓励人们在旅途中学习。现在的世界变化之快，每个现代城市看起来都是一样的。民俗文化和野生环境被“现代社会”所取代。这也是为什么现在野生环境为目的地的旅游在旅游业中越来越受欢迎的原因。

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.

Saskia van der Meij – Exp. guide



Saskia is an adventurous girl born in The Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt at a young age how great it is to be active in & part of nature.

Saskia has a background in tourism and hospitality. For almost twenty years she was a product manager for a nature-oriented tour operator. She travelled to develop interesting products in Alaska, Canada, Argentina, Chili, Southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In 2019 she worked for three months in Namibia as an assistant manager in two different remote private game lodge. Two fantastic years followed while spending her time in North Norway, Spitsbergen and the Baltic Sea as a hotel manager on a three mast Barque (Tallship).

But her heart told her to go guiding. She spent almost every season in Spitsbergen from mysterious Blue February until the colourful sunsets in October. Here, she started guiding as part of a two-man expedition team on a small sailing ship. Since 2022 she guides for Oceanwide Expedition in both the Arctic and Antarctic. Saskia loves the vast wilderness of Antarctica, with its fifty shades of white, which is home to her for three to four months every season. As a camping guide, on specific trips, she can't wait to take guests out for a night in the snow on this incredible seventh continent.

She is passionate about nature in general and has a wide interest and understanding, from animals to landscapes and ice. But she developed a deeper love for the fascinating polar history and whales.

Hospitality lies in her core, and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these amazing destinations.

Frank Shi – Translator



experiences and engage in conversations.

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 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 kilometers on his rides. Whether at work or during leisure time, Frank is always eager to share his

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。

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。

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。

Samuel Fidler – Ships Doctor



Samuel Fidler is a Dutch surgery resident who lives and works in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

He received his medical degree from Utrecht University and performed his PhD research at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, USA. For his PhD he studied transplant immunology and ultra-low temperature graft preservation techniques in hand and face transplants.

After returning to the Netherlands, he gained experience in critical care and emergency medicine through his work at the Erasmus University Medical Center ICU and the Maasstad Hospital Surgery and Emergency Medicine departments. Currently he is a surgeon in training at the Erasmus University Medical Center.

Growing up in a family of sailors and hikers, he developed a keen interest in outdoor adventure through rock climbing, alpinism, trekking, canoeing, skiing, and (sea)sailing. While working as a researcher in the United States, he climbed extensively in West Virginia, New York State, and Maine, repeatedly sailed up and down the Chesapeake Bay, canoed Minnesota's Boundary Waters and trekked through the Cascade Mountain Range and sections of the Appalachian Trail. As a ship's doctor he previously worked on journeys on the North- and Mediterranean Seas, the Atlantic- and Pacific Oceans and to Antarctica.

Through his travels he gained a deep respect for nature and an understanding of how fragile the earth's ecosystems are. He loves to share the wonders of the polar wilderness with guests and to provide the best possible experience on polar voyages.

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.

1830 The meeting will be followed by welcome drinks with Captain Barría and a chance to meet the Expedition team and learn more about our voyage around Spitsbergen.

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

After dinner we will issue rubber boots. 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.

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).
- 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 **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.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1500 **Lecture – Life & Likes of Roald Amundsen**
We invite you to come join Gabi and the expedition team in the Lounge for a talk about renowned polar explorer Roald Amundsen.
- 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 **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 in the dining room (deck 4).

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 **Presentation – Ice Big & Small**
Join Rustyn in the lounge for an in-depth look at the life cycle of ice and snow, it's classifications and more.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1500 **Presentation - 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.

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0845 **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.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1500+/- **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.
- 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 (deck 4).
- 2045 **Bråsvellbreen Ships Cruise**
This evening we will enjoy the views of a spectacular 45-kilometer-long glacier front known for endless meltwater waterfalls cascading directly into the Arctic Ocean.

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0845 **Sundneset Landing**
This wild spot on the South West of Barentsøya provides a great location for hiking with lakes, viewpoints and a small hut built in 1959.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1415 **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.
- 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

Saturday 18th July 2026

Burgerbukta and Gåshamna

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0845 **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).
- 1415 **Gåshamna Landing**
This afternoon we will explore this large, open bay on the southern shores of the Hornsund fjord in southwestern Spitsbergen. Here we have a chance to explore centuries of Arctic history; including trapping, whaling and wildlife.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Special Arctic Dinner** will be served – dress warmly!

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0845 **Bamsebu Landing**
This landing site lies on the southern shores of Van Keulenfjorden in Bellsund. A cabin was erected here to use as a whaling station in the 1930's and the shores are lined with evidence of these times. Wildlife, history and geology all contribute to the character of this site.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1430+/- **Afternoon Activities**
Please listen to announcements for our plans for this afternoon.
- 1900 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1930 **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 **Salmaneset Landing**
We hope to land on this spit of land that divides two large fjords with vertically tiled rock layers filled with fossils. We will visit low tundra, grazing ground for reindeer, and hike up onto the rock promontory to have views across Isfjorden.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1415 **Alkhornet Landing**
This afternoon we hope to go ashore at Alkhornet where we will explore the area in our hiking groups. There is a huge cliff where over 60,000 Kittiwakes nest along with Brünnich's guillemots. It is often a good place to see reindeer feeding on the grassy slopes and we sometimes see Arctic foxes amongst the rocks below the cliffs.
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join us in the Lounge for a farewell drink with Captain Barria and the expedition team. We will also explain plans for disembarkation in Longyearbyen and look back on our voyage.
- 1930 **Farewell Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning! Please place your large check in luggage outside your cabin before you go to breakfast.
- 0730 Breakfast Buffet is available in the dining room for 1 hour.
- 0900 All guests on Flight **SK4491 (10:45 - Oslo)** will take a bus from the ship to the airport. Please put a **BLUE LABEL** on your luggage. Your luggage will go to the airport on a truck.
- 0900 All guests on Flight **SK4497 (19:35 - Oslo)** will take a bus to town Please put an **ORANGE LABEL** on your luggage. Your bus to the airport will leave town at **17.30**. Your luggage will be waiting for you at the airport in a truck.
- 0900 **No flight:** All guests staying in town take the bus to town at 09.00. 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.