



Around Spitsbergen & Nordaustlandet

17th August – 26th August 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 in The Netherlands.



Captain Per Andersson

[Sweden]

and his international crew of 53

Chief Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Second Officer:	Piotr Filipowski	[Poland]
Third Officer:	Ian Vicente	[Philippines]
Bosun:	Eniano Agarin	[Philippines]
Bosun:	Raymund Olympia	[Philippines]
Able Seaman:	Roger Brillo	[Philippines]
Able Seaman:	Christopher Sarial	[Philippines]
Able Seaman:	Winston Pagalaran	[Philippines]
Able Seaman:	Kenue Hubahib	[Philippines]
Ordinary Seaman:	Glenn Calawag	[Philippines]
Able Seaman:	Jess Florentino	[Philippines]
Able Seaman:	Jestony Pacaldo	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Second Engineer:	Maksims Lasuks	[Latvia]
Third Engineer:	Hjalmar Evangelio Aznar	[Philippines]
Fourth Engineer:	Dragisa Gogic	[Montenegro]
Chief Electrical Engineer:	Dumitru Orosan	[Romania]
Fitter:	Ricson Labor	[Philippines]
Fitter:	Marcy Vicente	[Philippines]
Motorman:	Mark Falcatan	[Philippines]
Motorman:	Jess Narra	[Philippines]
Motorman:	Arvie Edemni	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymir 'Vova' Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Charlotte Cadiz	[Philippines]
Bartender:	Raquel Queri	[Philippines]
House-keeping Supervisor:	Jerome Dela Cruz	[Philippines]
House-keeping Stewardess:	Menchie Lagartija	[Philippines]
House-keeping Stewardess:	Anecita Bernaldez	[Philippines]
House-keeping Steward:	Reynaldo Rombaoa	[Philippines]
Laundry Stewardess:	Maylyn Dizon	[Philippines]
Laundry Stewardess:	Noelle Lerin	[Philippines]

DR Supervisor:	Khael Micabalo	[Philippines]
DR Steward:	Aljun Lopena	[Philippines]
DR Steward:	Agus Putra	[Indonesia]
DR Steward:	Roger Carreon	[Philippines]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Edward Nunag	[Philippines]
Sous Chef:	Sashin Naik	[India]
Cook:	Baso Tabang	[Indonesia]
Cook:	Jefferson Macarubbo	[Philippines]
Pastry Chef:	Allan Torres	[Philippines]
Galley Steward:	Joshua Cabual	[Philippines]
Cadet:	Klaas Kapteijn	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Rustyn Mesdag	[United States]
Expedition Guide:	Aitana Forcen Vazquez	[Spain]
Expedition Guide:	Brenya Green	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Marcelo Tarapow	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Susanne Christanen	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide:	Emily Clarke	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Aline Aarts	[Netherlands]
Ship's Doctor:	Eva-Maria Kifmann	[Switzerland]

WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

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THE TRIP LOG THAT FOLLOWS WAS COMPILED BY THE ON BOARD EXPEDITION TEAM DURING THE VOYAGE, WITH EACH TEAM MEMBER WRITING ABOUT A DAY IN THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL STYLE. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A COMPLETE REPRESENTATION OF THE VOYAGE, MORE A REMINDER OF THE HIGHLIGHTS. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT.

Day 1 – Monday 17th August, Longyearbyen – Embarkation Day.

12:00 GPS Position: 78°18.4' N - 015°16.1' E

Wind: NW-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air Temperature: 6.0 °C

Our expedition began in Longyearbyen, the gateway to Norway's High Arctic region. Before boarding, many took the opportunity to wander through the small town, 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 *M/V Ortelius*, where the expedition team and hotel staff welcomed us onboard. After settling into our cabins, we had time to get familiar with our new home as luggage was delivered and the ship prepared for departure. Once everyone had embarked, we gathered in the lounge for a mandatory ship safety briefing. This was followed by a familiarization with the emergency life vests and lifeboat stations under the guidance of the crew. With all



formalities complete, *Ortelius* pulled away from the dock and went to anchor for a couple of hours. There was one last thing before we could begin our voyage around Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet. An important piece of luggage did not arrive in Longyearbyen with its owner, and it was due to land with the SAS flight at 19:00. By just after 20:00 it was on board.

Meanwhile, we gathered in the lounge to meet key members of the onboard team. Hotel Manager Vova gave an introduction to the ship and onboard services. Our Swedish Captain, Per Andersson, followed up with a characteristically warm welcome and a toast to the voyage. Then Expedition Leader Ali gave an overview of our plans for the voyage and introduced the talented and highly experienced Expedition Team that would guide us over the coming days.

Then it was time for our first dinner, and an opportunity to get to know some of our fellow travelers. The evening concluded with the distribution of our expedition Muck Boots, essential equipment for the excursions to come. With preparations complete, and anticipation growing, many retired for the night as *Ortelius* made her way out of Isfjord. Those that remained up and about were rewarded with a fantastic view of dramatic Alkhornet bathed in soft light as Captain Per deliberately sailed in closer to the land than normal to take advantage of the scenery.



Day 2 – Tuesday 18th August – Lilliehöökreen and Ny Ålesund.

12:00 GPS Position: 79°17.2'N - 011°37.3'E

Wind: Calm • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 4.3°C

After a good breakfast the morning began with a Zodiac cruise through the brash ice in front of Lilliehöökreen, one of Svalbard's more impressive tidewater glaciers. We threaded our way through the loose ice, enjoying close views of the glacier front and the constantly shifting patterns of ice, water, and mountain landscape.



The cruise provided an excellent opportunity to experience the glacier from sea level and observe the dynamic environment surrounding its terminus. The brash ice was dense, which made the return to the ship slow from the distance we had explored without realizing how far from the ship we had cruised. It was a great start to what promised to be a great voyage.

While we enjoyed our first buffet lunch onboard, *Ortelius* was navigated through the serene waters of Lilliehöökfjorden and Krossfjorden, before entering Kongsfjorden where our afternoon destination awaited. Here a cold breeze greeted us. We spent the afternoon ashore at Ny-Ålesund, one of the world's northernmost permanent research settlements. Captain Per had berthed his ship skilfully alongside the small pier, so it was an easy disembarkation by gangway.

We explored the settlement on foot and stopped at the gift shop, which was a particularly enjoyable visit for those keen to pick up a souvenir and send a postcard home. Further up the track we came upon a statue of Roald Amundsen, who launched two of his North Pole expeditions from Ny Ålesund. While walking through the settlement, an Arctic fox suddenly ran past the Chinese



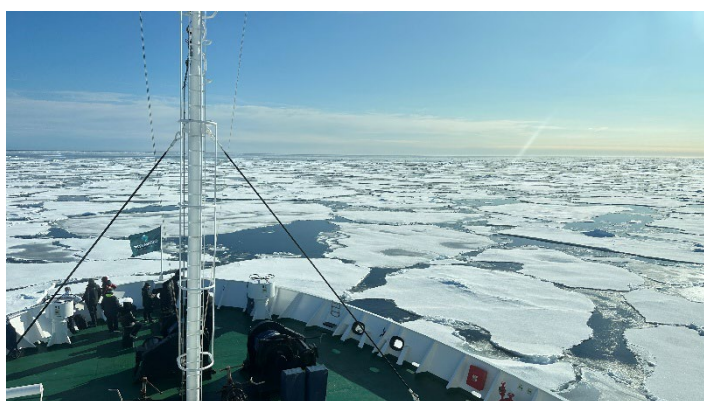
'Yellow River' research station, providing an unexpected and memorable wildlife encounter. A few Svalbard Reindeer were also found grazing among the buildings. We then walked out toward the historic airship mast, where Marcelo gave an engaging talk about the history of the area and its connection to the great early airship expeditions to the North Pole by the great Roald Amundsen and Italy's Umberto Nobile. The combination of Arctic history, modern polar science, wildlife, and the stark landscape surrounding Ny-Ålesund made for a memorable afternoon ashore. We strolled back to the ship for our daily recap and a well-deserved dinner on board.

Day 3 – Wednesday 19th August – Pack Ice, north of Svalbard.

12:00 GPS Position: 80°38.2'N - 013°50.3'E

Wind: S-3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear & sunny • Air Temperature: 3.5 °C

This morning's wake-up call from Expedition Leader Ali delivered the exciting news that we were approaching the pack ice, and the weather was excellent! This created a bit of a pre-breakfast migration to the outer decks as many guests looked forward to a new and exciting experience.



Soon, breakfast was announced and everyone headed back inside. Meanwhile, Captain Per gently guided *Ortelius* into the ice, sending the occasional shudder through the ship as her strong hull connected with heavy ice floes.

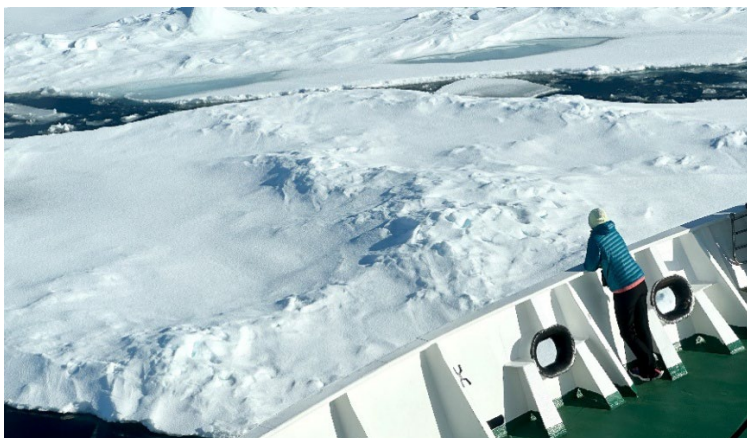
As everyone made their way out of breakfast, a unique High Arctic landscape surrounded the ship. Sea-

ice floes stretched out to the horizon in all directions as *Ortelius* slowly made her way into the realm of the Polar Bear. At first, the ice floes were relatively small, but they quickly became larger and heavier. The bridge crew and expedition team scoured the vast expanse of ice with binoculars, straining their eyes in search of wildlife. Many seals were spotted in the distance, and one Bearded Seal allowed us to make a close approach with the ship. Despite there being plenty of Polar Bear food around, there was no sign of the bears themselves.

Sunglasses were essential while walking around the outer decks, which were bathed in glorious sunlight. The view across the ice revealed pressure ridges, azure melt-water ponds and the occasional set of Polar Bear tracks. The Lord of the Arctic was out there somewhere! And more than likely, had eyes on us! As *Ortelius* ventured deeper into the ice, it seemed appropriate to have a lecture on sea ice. So, at 11:00 we were invited to join Expedition Guide Aitana in the lounge for a talk about one of her favorite subjects.

Outside, as the morning wore on, more seals were spotted, along with passing Kittiwakes, Brunnich's guillemots, Little Auks and Northern Fulmars. But still the





Polar Bear eluded us. Soon the announcement for lunch echoed around the ship. With everyone inside for a while, Captain Per took the opportunity to move *Ortelius* into more open waters and move a few miles to a new area of ice which looked denser. There were lots of seals, both in the water and hauled out on ice floes. The main species were Bearded and Harp seals.

As the ship re-entered the ice, the bridge crew and expedition staff continued their diligent search for wildlife. The bright sunlight on the ice made it hard on the eyes, and those making the biggest effort were encouraged to take breaks. At 14:30 we were invited to the Lounge to join Expedition Guide Emily for a lecture about Polar Bears. It was hoped that this might encourage the real thing to appear. Outside it was clouding over and fog banks loomed ominously on the horizon.

The search continued through the afternoon, and still there were no bears to be seen. Given the abundance of seals, this was surprising! Bird life was also plentiful with Arctic Terns, Arctic Skuas and a lone Ivory Gull being the avian highlights of the afternoon. At 16:00, Marcelo gave a unique history presentation in the lounge which included a 'show and tell' session using his private collection of artefacts and memorabilia that relate to key historical stories from the region.

The daily program of events concluded with Ali giving her briefing on plans for the next day's activities. In the meantime, the Expedition Team continued their binocular vigil from the Bridge. As everyone headed off to dinner, Captain Per guided *Ortelius* into a large lead of open water where the ship could gain some speed, with a massive solid pan of ice on off the port side. This was excellent ice for Polar Bears! The spotters on the bridge scoured the surface. Eventually, their efforts were rewarded.



Expedition Leader Ali spotted a Polar Bear resting on the ice floe, curled up on the side of a small hummock. Captain Per slowed *Ortelius* to a halt while everyone finished their main course, and then Ali announced the exciting find. Desert could wait. In fact, it was available in the bar later on.



Captain Per slowly and skillfully maneuvered the ship towards the edge of the ice floe, and then the magic happened! The young bear rose to its feet and started walking in our direction. Showing remarkable curiosity, it confidently closed the gap between itself and us. Meanwhile, eagle-eyed Ali spotted a second Polar Bear a long way off our starboard side, which also appeared to be walking in our direction. But all eyes were on the first bear, which walked to the edge of the ice to get a good view of us. It

calmly sat, then laid down, and put on a wonderful performance before our very eyes. Captain Per, in the meantime, had gently guided *Ortelius* as close as we could possibly get, with the ship's bow resting against the edge of the ice floe. Mere meters separated us from the Polar Bear!

As the light slowly faded across the Arctic wilderness, our beautiful bear eventually rose to its feet and calmly walked away. As if concluding that there was no meal to be had from the strange metallic object that had come to say hello. As a parting gift, the bear crouched and went to the toilet on the ice! While all this was going on, the second bear had taken to the water and, after quite a long swim, had pulled out on a large icefloe some distance and directly behind the ship.



This, a larger and older bear, was not interested in us, and was last seen walking in the opposite direction. This was typical of the majority of Polar Bears, which prefer to avoid contact with humans. How lucky we had been to encounter one so curious!

And so ended an unforgettable day in the High Arctic pack ice. Happy and somewhat chilled, many of us retired to the lounge for dessert and a celebratory drink.

Day 4 – Thursday 20th August – Phippsøya & Chermsideøya.

12:00 GPS Position: 80°40.4'N - 020°57.3'E

Wind: ENE-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear & sunny • Air Temperature: 4.1°C

Our day began with a gentle wake-up call at 7:15 from our Expedition Leader, Ali, who informed us of the outside temperature and weather conditions. Luck was on our side: bright sunshine, blue skies and beautifully glassy, calm waters awaited us in the remote Seven Islands.



After breakfast, we boarded the Zodiacs and made our way ashore to Phippsøya, where we were offered a choice of long, medium and leisurely hikes. Dividing into our hiking groups, we set off with our guides to explore the stark and remarkable landscape. Our first

stop on each of the hikes was particularly special. A small group of Atlantic Walrus were hauled out onto the beach five hundred metres from our landing site. For many of us, these were our very first Walrus sightings. It was fantastic to see them relaxed and enjoying the sandy beach while bathed in glorious Arctic sunshine. A few swam by just offshore.





As we continued our hikes, the landscape revealed a fascinating story of both wildlife, history and geology. We discovered Arctic fox and polar bear footprints in the soft mud, reindeer antlers resting on the tundra, and the remains of whale bones in places.

Our guides explained the process of isostatic rebound, helping us understand how the land continues to rise following the retreat of the immense ice sheets that once covered the region. With the sun shining overhead, stunning Arctic scenery and lots of skuas and kittiwakes made it a fantastic morning on one of Svalbard's most northerly islands.



Back on-board *Ortelius*, we enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch while the ship repositioned for our afternoon operations at Chermideøya. A Zodiac shuttle took us ashore once again, where we divided into our hiking groups once more and set off for another adventure.

The long hikers followed a beautiful route around a lake, enjoying expansive views and the tranquillity of the surrounding wilderness. Meanwhile, the medium hikers took the opportunity to give something back to this remarkable environment, collecting plastic, fishing nets, ropes and other debris from the beach. The strong currents and winds can carry a surprising amount of marine litter onto these remote shores, making even a small clean-up effort feel particularly worthwhile.



With everyone back on the ship, we gathered for our evening recap. Ali delivered the plans for the following day, Emily introduced us to the fascinating world of Arctic Terns and their long migrations, while Aline helped us decipher some of the place names of Svalbard, giving us an insight into their Norwegian origins — and teaching us a little Norwegian along the way.

After a delicious plated dinner, the day still had one final surprise in store. Some of us were fortunate enough to spot fin whales, their tall blows catching the light and glistening in the evening sunshine. It was a beautiful end to an already memorable day.

Day 5 – Friday 21st August – Kvitøya (Kraemerpynten & Andréeneset).

12:00 GPS Position: 79°58.3'N - 032°06.2'E

Wind: NW-4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Cloud/fog • Air Temperature: 0.4°C

The sunrise appeared before us somewhat challenging at first. Visibility wasn't good, the waves warned us that the Zodiac cruising at Kraemerpynten was going to be a bit rough, and the cold wind coming from the glacier that almost completely covers Kvitøya (White Island) would put our skills as polar explorers to the test.



From the bridge, they gave the good news that visibility was improving and that two Polar Bears had been spotted on the beach. Just as we were celebrating that discovery, one of the guides updated the information: there are actually **three** Polar Bears.

After a bumpy boat ride close to the coast, we were only able to see one of the bears since the others walked toward the interior of the island. The Zodiac ride continued with incredible navigation in front of an imposing glacier, on top of which we could spot more than 40 kittiwakes perched.

We went around an iceberg with intense light blue and bluish colours, and then, when the fog came back, we headed towards *Ortelius*, which was manoeuvring closer to help us re-board.

In the afternoon, once again the fog threatened to ruin our second activity of the day, but fortunately its intensity decreased, so we got back in the Zodiacs for a ride that was less turbulent than the one in the morning. We approached the beach and were able to see a Polar Bear resting, or rather conserving its energy, in case of a possible lack of food. After enjoying the bear for some time from the regulation distance, a second Polar Bear came into the area and, with indifferent



behaviour, passed near the other one without bothering it, also seemingly planning to find its own spot to lie down. This was a fantastic opportunity to observe close interaction between two Polar Bears.

We continued sailing south until we reached an area of the coast with much flatter, more desert-like terrain. The

name of this place – Andréeneset – recalls the leader of the tragic Swedish expedition to the North Pole led by Salomon Andrée, who on July 11, 1897, after a failed attempt the previous year, took off from Danes Island, located in the northwest of the Svalbard archipelago, in a hydrogen balloon along with Knut Frænkel and Nils Strindberg. Due to the loss of the ropes that served as rudders, the accumulation of ice on the balloon, and the loss of gas, they were forced to land on the ice field near latitude 83° N on July 14. From there, they embarked on an extremely tough journey with the intention of returning to land.

After much sacrifice and deterioration of their health, they managed to reach the place we visited today, where we could see from a distance the monument that honours their memory. Their bodies were only found in 1930. A sad and desolate place, but one that left lessons for future explorers and an incredible love story between Nils Strindberg and his grieving fiancée Anna Charlier.

Very few ships usually visit this remote place where Sweden's most published expedition reached its tragic conclusion. It seemed fitting that a modern-day Swedish explorer had brought us to this place. Thank you Captain Per. We considered ourselves lucky, returning to the ship to regain energy in order to be able to observe the grandeur and beauty of the glacier and wildlife.



Day 6 – Saturday 22nd August – Austfonna, Bråsvellbreen & Torellneset.

12:00 GPS Position: 79°19.2'N - 007°54.5'E

Wind: SW-4 • Sea: Choppy • Weather: Heavily overcast • Air Temperature: -0.2°C

We woke up with our morning call from our Expedition Leader Ali - 'Good morning, good morning' - at 07:45 this morning. This was a little later than the past few days, so everyone enjoyed a little lie-in. We enjoyed our breakfast, while we were making our way towards the incredible glacier Bråsvellbreen. This morning, we cruised and approached the glacier with *M/V Ortelius* and enjoyed some wonderful sights of this massive glacier. The visibility was limited to start with but was slowly improving over the course of the morning. We wrapped ourselves up warmly, to enjoy the views of the glacier. We enjoyed the waterfalls coming down the glacier as we were coming closer. There were also some seals with us, what a joy!



In particular, we admired the marvelous ship-handling skills of our Captain. Halfway through the morning, the hotel department prepared delicious hot chocolate with cream, served on the outside deck behind the bridge, to keep us warm while enjoying the scenery.



After a lovely time at Bråsvellbreen, we continued our course towards Torellneset: a headland at the southwestern side of Nordaustlandet, Svalbard. The headland is named after geologist Otto Martin Torell. This place is famous for two things: the polar desert landscape and Walrus which haul out on land. Everyone was very keen to enjoy and have some fascinating Walrus sightings. We went for a landing at Torellneset after a wonderful lunch onboard *M/V Ortelius*. We had a few hiking options, and everyone enjoyed the beautiful sight at their own pace.

Once back on board, we warmed ourselves up again, preparing for the briefing of our Expedition Leader Ali. She shared our plans for tomorrow and we enjoyed some short presentations from the Expedition Team. Later that evening, for our dinner, the galley and hotel department had prepared a wonderful barbeque to be enjoyed by everyone on the open deck: a real Arctic barbeque for crew and guests! We all enjoyed the warmth of the delicious food while breathing in the fresh Arctic air. This must be for most of us the most northern barbeque we have ever had! A memory to treasure.

After a day filled with incredible adventures and exciting experiences, fantastic sights and dramatic scenery, all enjoyed in good company and delicious food prepared by the galley and hotel department, most of us took an early night, to be fully rested for the exploration of the next day ahead of us. We were slowly travelling down towards the south of Svalbard with remote Barentsøya our next destination; we are all truly excited.



Day 7 – Sunday 23rd August – Sundneset, Diskobukta & Boltodden.

12:00 GPS Position: 77°39.7'N - 019°34.8'E

Wind: SSW-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: 4.1°C

The day started a little earlier than planned. At 06:45, thirty minutes before our scheduled wake-up call, an announcement came through: “**Four polar bears on shore**”. That was enough to get everyone out of bed very quickly and onto the bridge. There was a female with two second-year cubs and, not far away, a big male.

From what we could see, it looked like he might have been pursuing the family, potentially trying to get at the cubs. They had clearly been running, and by the time we were watching them they were stretched out on the ground, trying to cool down and catch their breath after all the effort. Captain Per guided *Ortelius* as close to shore as he safely could, and we observed the anxious stand-off for



a while. The male laid down on the beach, while the female and cubs laid down higher up on the hillside, all on their guard and facing the male. This was not a bad way to start a Sunday.

We continued Through Freemandsundet towards Sundneset, our planned landing for the morning. However, the combination of drifting fog and four polar bears, which were a little too close for comfort, meant that landing was not a safe option. So, on to Plan B – Diskobukta – which was originally our Plan A for the afternoon.



When we arrived, we could see the beautiful canyon emerging through the fog, its cliffs full of Kittiwakes. We were still hopeful that we might be able to go ashore, but while scouting with binoculars from the bridge, our team discovered **another two polar bears** up on the hillside. This was crazy! Six bears before 10 o'clock.

Of course, landing was not possible and Diskobukta was now also off the menu. The Captain and Expedition Leader had to do some quick strategizing and soon we were off in pursuit of Plan C. As good explorers, of course, we always have a Plan C! We turned towards Boltodden on the east coast of Spitsbergen, where we hoped to finally stretch our legs and have a look at some dinosaur footprints.

On the way there, we had three mini lectures to keep us entertained: Ali talked about birds, Emily introduced us to the world of Walruses, and Rustyn tackled the ever-relevant subject of seasickness. Meanwhile, from the bridge, a couple of whales thought to be Fin Whales were spotted passing by. They didn't seem particularly interested in us and continued on their way.

After lunch, we finally arrived at Boltodden. The scouting team went ashore, and this time returned with the news we had been waiting for: **No bears! Hooray!** We could finally disembark.



We set off on our now-famous long, medium and short hikes, spending a lovely afternoon walking across the tundra and visiting the dinosaur footprints. After several days surrounded by polar desert, the vegetation and splashes of colour were especially welcome. The long hikers explored the adjacent valley complex, hiking deep into the valley, where the tundra gave way to a landscape with an almost lunar-like appearance. Although stark and barren at higher levels, there was an incredible beauty to this rarely visited part of Svalbard.

Eventually, we made our way back to the ship, where we gathered to hear the plans for tomorrow. Six polar bears, a few whales, thousands of birds, dinosaur footprints, flowers, fog and three different landing plans. Just another beautiful day in the Arctic!!!!



Day 8 – Monday 24th August – Burgerbukta & Gåshamna.

12:00 GPS Position: 77°00.7'N - 015°57.4'E

Wind: SSW-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 3.1°C



The day began overcast and cold with low cloud obscuring the lofty peaks of Burgerbukta, on the north side of Hornsund. After breakfast we boarded the Zodiacs for an exploratory cruise in this spectacular area. We headed deeper into the bay towards the dramatic glacier front of Paierlbreen. The local bird life was largely represented by Kittiwakes, frequently seen resting on pieces of ice and

taking their morning bath. A few Glaucous Gulls and Black Guillemots, as well as a lone Puffin were also spotted by some Zodiacs. Deeper into the bay there was a lot of brash ice from glacier calvings, and the Zodiac drivers had a lot of fun as they skilfully pushed their sturdy craft ever closer to the mighty glacier. From a safe distance, most of the Zodiacs witnessed dramatic calvings as the glacier spewed even more ice into the already ice-choked waters of the bay.

We drove parallel with the glacier front and found a narrow belt of clear water on the west side of the bay at the foot of the cliffs. This allowed us to admire the spectacular geology, a hanging glacier and cascading waterfalls... one of which



ejected from a hole near the foot of the cliffs. Where the water enters the mountain is a mystery that may never be solved. By now it was drizzling and we were getting quite damp, and after two hours in the boats many were feeling the cold. The hot chocolate machine was calling! The Zodiac drivers had to push through one last heavy

band of brash ice before safely returning us to *Ortelius*. What a thrilling adventure Burgerbukta had given us! Soon it was time for a welcome hot lunch as the ship made her way towards our afternoon destination on the southern shores of Hornsund.

After lunch, we arrived at Gåshamna for an afternoon of hiking and exploration. Along the shore, we explored historic whalebone remains and ruins associated with the Pomors, the Russian trappers and hunters who operated in Svalbard centuries ago. A highlight was an extra-long, extremely steep hike that became known among the group as the “55-degree misery march.” Roughly half of the group took on the challenge and pushed all the way to the summit. The top was shrouded in fog, so there were no views from the summit itself, but the scenery throughout the climb and descent was spectacular. Despite the demanding terrain, everyone who attempted the hike completed it and returned excited and proud of the accomplishment. The medium hiking groups stayed at lower elevations, exploring the surrounding terrain and searching for wildlife, while the leisurely group explored the low area beyond the beach. It was a beautiful Arctic afternoon, and we eventually returned to the ship for our final recap of the voyage.



Day 9 – Tuesday 25th August – Alkhornet & Ymerbukta.

12:00 GPS Position: 78°26.4'N - 013°53.3'E

Wind: NW-4 • Sea: Choppy • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air Temperature: 3.3°C

In the wee hours of the morning (01:00) we dropped anchor in the protected waters of Trygghamna, just north of Alkhornet, our next destination. At 07:00 Captain navigated the ship around the point to our landing for a thorough scout for bears. Once Ali and the team felt the area was clear, we proceeded with our morning plans for hiking at Alkhornet.



The Long Hikers set out first with Ali, Marcelo, and Susanne. Next, the Medium Hikers – one group with Rustyn and Aline, and the other with Brenya and Emily. And finally, the Leisurely group with Allan and Aitana. Alkhornet is one of those sites that is easy to let your guard down. It delivers beautiful views, fantastic plant life, and plentiful wildlife with ease – and

while polar bear encounters are still possible here, it feels as though you've entered the Garden of Eden; Svalbard's version at least. It really is one of Svalbard's most beautiful and serene sites.

The reindeer appeared in their dozens, including one with reddened antlers and some young just a few months old. Arctic foxes scampered about the lush green tundra. Arctic skua, Terns, and of course, thousands of Kittiwakes filled the skies and called in the distance. I believe today was the shortest of all hikes across the entire trip, as the amount of wildlife had us all stopped in our tracks enjoying and taking *'just one more photograph!'*

Back at the landing, the hiking groups merged and the daring of the bunch – the polar plungers – headed to the beach for a frigid swim in the Arctic Ocean! With cheering and applause from onlookers, a good number seized the opportunity with enthusiasm and extreme bravery. Congratulations to those of you who took the plunge!





Alkhornet had been nothing short of breath-taking! We reflected on its beauty and the extraordinary wildlife encounters it had gifted us as we made the short transit during lunch to Ymerbukta - our afternoon destination where we had a different kind of landing planned – a perimeter landing, meaning that guests were able to roam about within the staff boundaries which included a high-point for those wanting a bit more of a leg stretch. Those who climbed to the highest point had a fantastic view over the glacier, Esmarkbreen, taking in the enormous amount of ice it holds and the mountainous peaks that surround it. Most people also visited the glacier face at ground level, from a safe but close distance. In the safe area of the glacier, we were able to actually touch it and listen to the active melt drip from a small cave that had formed. Many guests found a quiet place throughout the perimeter for themselves to take in a silent moment and reflect on the amazing journey we have had here in Svalbard.



Back on board, the packing continued in earnest. In the evening, we toasted a final farewell to Captain Per and his amazing crew, and of course the highly talented Expedition Team that had guided us every step of the way throughout the voyage. We enjoyed a wonderful slideshow



summary of our journey produced by Susanne. And then it was time for our final dinner, during which we met the entire hotel department and got to show our appreciation for all their hard work. An evening of socializing and farewell drinks followed as *Ortelius* lay quietly at anchor in sheltered Colesbukta for the night.

Day 10 – Wednesday 26th August – Longyearbyen, Disembarkation Day.

08:00 GPS Position: 78°18.4' N - 015°16.1' E

Wind: NW-3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air Temperature: 1°C

At 05:00 the anchor was heaved and *Ortelius* steamed the last few miles to Longyearbyen. A few early birds joined Chief Officer Warren on the bridge for the final views of the coast as we sailed deeper into Isfjorden. While docked at the main pier, we woke up one last time to Ali's calm voice. We put our check luggage



outside our cabins and headed for one final breakfast buffet. Outside, it was another bright day and the waters around Longyearbyen were quiet. The expedition team moved our luggage onto the pier, and then it was time to disembark. We made sure our luggage was loaded on to the correct truck and that we were on the right bus, heading for either the airport or town. It was time to say goodbye to the expedition team and crew onboard, and to our fellow travelers and new friends. What an amazing journey this has been, exploring the Arctic wilderness. With unforgettable memories we were ready to travel home or perhaps move on to new adventures. It was with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to *Ortelius*, our home from home, for the last 9 days.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1,225 nautical miles

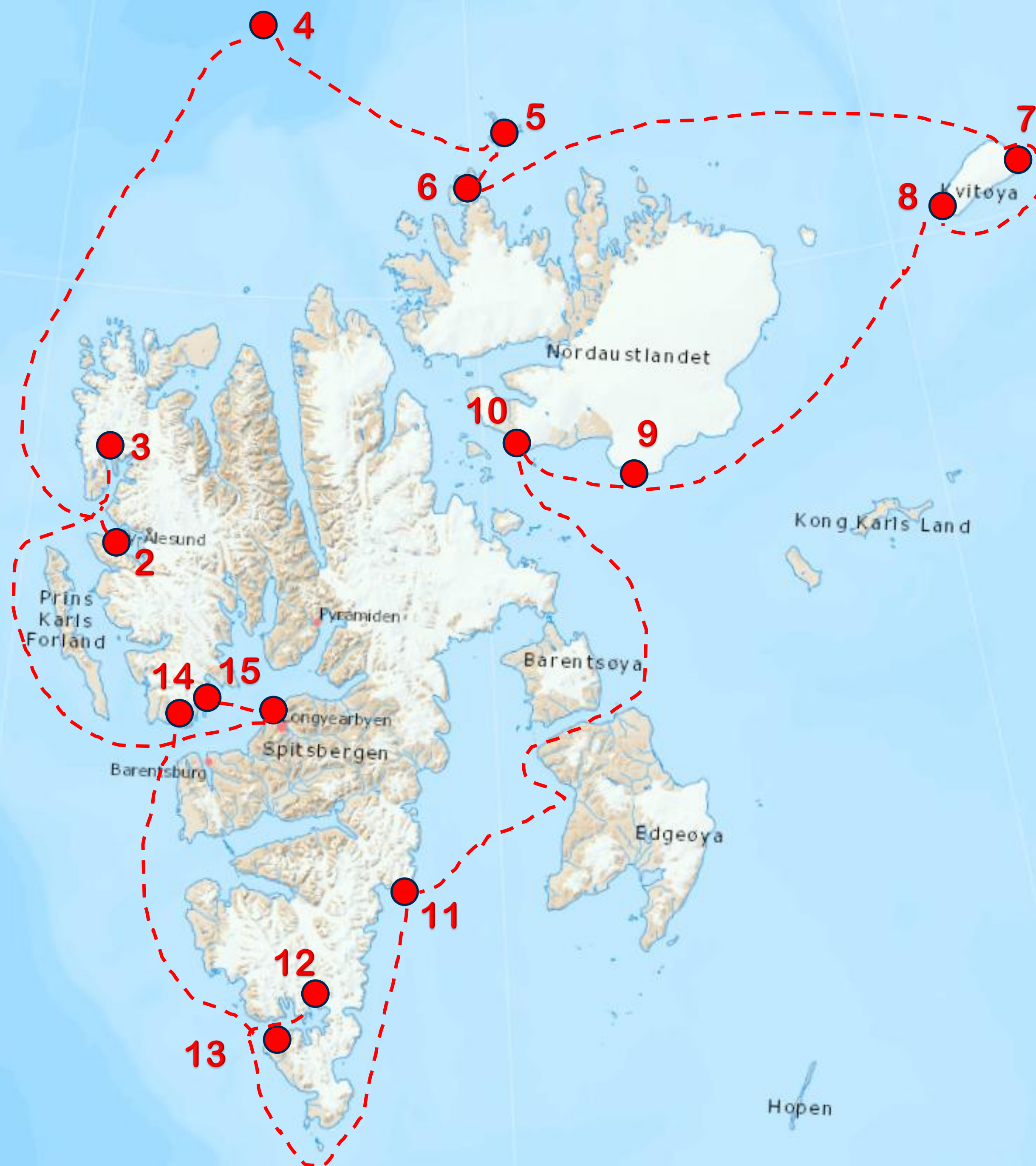
Farthest north: 80°49.2' N, 013°46.3' E



Your Oceanwide Expedition Team

Standing (L-R): Ran, Zoy, Aline, Ali, Allan, Susanne.

Seated (L-R): Aitana, Brenya, Emily, Dr. Eva, Rustyn, Marcelo.



- Day 1** : (1) Longyearbyen
- Day 2** : (2) Lilliehöökbreen
:(3) Ny-Alesund
- Day 3** : (4) Pack Ice
- Day 4** : (5) Isflakbukta - Phippsøya
:(6) Chermsideøya
- Day 5** : (7) Kræmerpynten
:(8) Andréeneset
- Day 6** : (9) Bråsvellbreen
:(10) Torelneset
:(11) Boltodden
- Day 8** : (12) Burgerbukta
:(13) Gashamna
- Day 9** : (14) Alkhornet
:(15) Ymerbukta

Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Merel	乌鸫									
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Sneeuwgorst	雪鹀		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	田鸫									
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Koperwiek	白眉歌鸫									
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Keep	燕雀									
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Giervalk	矛隼									

MAMMALS

English	Latin	Dutch	中文	17-Aug	18-Aug	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	26-Aug
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walrus	海象				X		X			
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Baardrob	髯海豹			X			X			
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrob	环斑海豹			X			X			
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Zadelrob	竖琴海豹			X						
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klapmuts	冠海豹			X						
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Gewone zeehond	斑海豹 (港海豹)		X		X		X			
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Dwergvinvis	小须鲸		X							
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Noordse vinvis	髯鲸 (塞鲸)									
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwe vinvis	蓝鲸					X				
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Gewone vinvis	长须鲸				X			X		
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Bultrug	座头鲸							X	X	
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Groenlandse walvis	弓头鲸						X			
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Potvis	抹香鲸									
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	一角鲸 (独角鲸)									
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Butskop	北瓶鼻鲸									
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Orka	虎鲸 (杀手鲸)									
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Witsnuitdolfijn	白吻斑纹海豚								X	X
Beluga	<i>Devinapterus leucas</i>	Beloega	白鲸									
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Ijsbeer	北极熊			X	X	X		X		
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Poolvos	北极狐		X				X		X	X

Ali Liddle – Expedition Leader



Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley.

Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline.

She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island.

Her particular interest is natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

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.

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide



Aitana is a passionate oceanographer who feels most at home in cold, remote places where conditions are unpredictable and the ocean is always in charge. Originally from Spain, she spent over a decade in New Zealand, where she completed a PhD in Physical Oceanography, focusing on understanding how the ocean moves and connects the planet.

Her work spans large-scale ocean circulation, waves, sea ice, and water mass formation, with a particular interest in how these systems interact in the polar regions. She has taken part in multiple research voyages across the Southern Ocean, including serving as Principal Investigator for the Ross Sea Outflow Experiment, and as voyage leader on board New Zealand's research vessel R/V Tangaroa, one of the youngest physical scientists to do so.

Aitana's career has taken her well beyond academia. She has worked as part of the meteorology team during two editions of the America's Cup, contributed to marine forecasting for port operations and Defence exercises, and spent years operating in environments where science, logistics, and real-time decision-making come

together. Today, she brings that experience into her role as a polar guide, helping guests understand not only the science of these regions, but also what it means to live and work in extreme environments. Alongside her work in the field, Aitana has taught at university level and increasingly shares her experience through talks and storytelling, exploring themes of performance, resilience, and decision-making under pressure. Outside of work, she is an avid open-water swimmer, a curious traveller drawn to unconventional road trips, and a knitter, often found working with yarn in places where it rarely makes sense to bring it

中文

艾塔纳是一位充满热忱的海洋学家，她最自在的地方是寒冷偏远、环境变幻莫测、海洋始终占据主导的区域。她来自西班牙，在新西兰生活了十余年，并取得物理海洋学博士学位，主要研究海洋运动方式及其对地球的连接作用。她的研究领域涵盖大尺度海洋环流、海浪、海冰与水团形成，尤其关注这些系统在极地地区的相互作用。她曾参与多次南大洋科考航行，包括担任罗斯海流出实验首席研究员，以及新西兰科考船“坦加罗阿号”的科考领队，也是担任该职位最年轻的自然科学家之一。

艾塔纳的职业经历并不局限于学术领域。她曾两届担任美洲杯帆船赛气象团队成员，为港口运营与国防演习提供海洋预报支持，并常年在需要科学、后勤与实时决策相结合的环境中工作。如今，她将这些经验运用到极地向导的工作中，帮助客人不仅理解极地地区的科学原理，也了解在极端环境下生活与工作的意义。

除实地工作外，艾塔纳还从事大学教学工作，并越来越多地通过演讲与分享经历的方式，探讨高压环境下的表现、韧性与决策等主题。

工作之余，她热衷于公开水域游泳，喜爱非常规公路旅行，也喜欢编织，经常在完全不适合带毛线的地方做编织手工。

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.

Marcelo Tarapow – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

中文

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

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

他还进行了对环境保护、气候变化、能源效率和旅游方面的研究。

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

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

他是 2024-2025 年双年度极地教育者国际理事会成员。

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

随时准备学习其他文化，聆听故事，热情分享他们的经验并关心环境。

Susan Christianen – Exp. Guide



Susan Christianen brings a deep passion for the Arctic and many years of experience navigating its demanding environments. Originally from the Netherlands, she has lived much of her life in the North, including 6 years in Sweden and nearly a decade in Iceland. With over 20 years of international experience, remote and cold environments have become a defining theme in both her personal and professional life.

With a background in design and innovation, Susan focuses on developing resilient solutions for extreme environments. She contributed to projects that support people living and working in Arctic regions, addressing challenges such as cold exposure, sustainability and remote fieldwork. Her work often bridges science, technology and real-world Arctic experience.

Susan participated in numerous Arctic expeditions, both independently and through collaborative fieldwork across Sápmi (Arctic Scandinavia), Iceland, Siberia, Greenland and Svalbard. Susan also contributed to immersive visitor experiences in the Arctic as a multi-awarded creative. This includes large-scale installations and constructions with snow and ice, guiding guests through glacier tunnels and icy landscapes, sharing insights into polar ecosystems, local diversity and indigenous culture.

Susan looks forward to connecting guests meaningfully with the polar regions. As member of the Icelandic Search and Rescue team (ICE-SAR) with a maritime rescue specialisation, she brings essential skills in field safety and remote operations. Susan also contributes to Arctic development through long-standing involvement in the Arctic Circle Assembly, co-founding Iceland's national Technology Transfer Office and serving board roles in regional cooperation and diplomacy.

Allan White - Expedition Guide



Allan was born and raised in the Falkland Islands. He's a fifth generation Islander, and a descendant of one of the original British colonists in 1840. His higher education was completed in England, after which he embarked on a military career.

He joined the British Army aged 17. After serving in West Germany for two years during the Cold War period, he completed deployments in Northern Ireland, Cyprus as a United Nations peace-keeper, and with British Forces South Atlantic Islands. He left the Army to settle back in the Falklands.

While working as a Port Agent, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of the small-ship expedition cruising concept. He encouraged Allan to become a Zodiac driver and go to sea for a year. Thirty years later, he's still at it. His voyages have taken him all over the world, with particular focus on the Polar regions. His travel experience ranges from 90° North to 78° South.

In the Falklands, Allan and his wife owned and operated their own tourist lodge for over a decade. More recently they managed a privately owned island, where they were the sole residents for almost 5 years, with thousands of albatrosses, penguins and seals for neighbours.

Allan is an experienced guide and Zodiac driver, with a keen interest in natural history and heroic age polar exploration. He lives in the Falklands capital Stanley, with his wife Jacqui.

Emily Clarke – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

development projects addressing human-wildlife conflicts.

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

中文

艾米丽在海边长大，海洋始终是她灵感与奇迹的源泉。她内心充满强烈的冒险精神，并总是乐于拥抱机遇，这让她踏上了一段段精彩的旅程。

对野生动物保护、旅行以及与人协作的热爱，最终引领她登上了探险船，将志趣发展为事业。

早已熟悉海上生活的艾米丽，身兼两个截然不同的角色。其一是作为探险领队；其二则是在石油天然气行业担任海洋哺乳动物观察员，工作在震测船上，负责保护海洋哺乳动物免受人为声源的伤害。

艾米丽在与野生动物打交道方面拥有超过15年的经验，工作场景既包括自然栖息地，也涉及救助康复。她曾花费十余年时间致力于大猩猩保护，为此深入非洲偏远地区，收集野生大猩猩的数据，并参与解决人兽冲突的保护与社区发展项目。

在工作的间歇，艾米丽喜欢通过立式划桨、皮划艇和潜水来放松身心，同时也忙于准备最新的讲座和规划她的下一次冒险。

Aline Aarts- Expedition Guide



Aline Aarts, born in the Netherlands, developed an early connection to nature while growing up on a hobby farm surrounded by animals and tending her own vegetable garden. As a Girl Scout from a young age, she fostered a lasting curiosity for the outdoors.

Her fascination with the complexity of biological life in remote environments led her to specialise in Arctic Biology and Environmental Sciences, studying in northern Iceland, at The University Centre in Svalbard, and at The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø.

Aline's professional experience spans ecological studies, teaching statistics, and developing educational materials, combined with a life at sea. As a seafarer, she has worked in deck operations, bridge support, and engine maintenance across the Arctic Circle and along the Norwegian coast. Driven by a passion for science communication, she actively contributes to Citizen Science initiatives, collaborating with universities and organisations on projects in both the Arctic and Antarctic.

Alongside her scientific interests, Aline enjoys playing the piano and wandering through forests.

She currently divides her time between working with Oceanwide Expeditions, while also supporting Citizen Science programmes, and contributing to ecological research with a focus on bird and plant vegetation studies. Aline is passionate about sharing knowledge on biological processes, botany, natural history and evolution.

Eva-Maria Kifmann – Ships Doctor



Eva grew up in Germany and studied medicine at the Technical University of Munich. For more than 20 years, she has been working as a doctor in Switzerland. She initially became a specialist in internal medicine and later further specialized in emergency medicine.

Currently, Eva works as a consultant in the emergency department of the hospital in Biel/Bienne, a bilingual city (German and French) about 40 km north of the capital Bern. She also holds the position of medical director for the local ambulance service.

Since her youth, Eva has been drawn to the cold North. The fascinating and fragile landscapes, along with the unique wildlife, have always captivated her.

The first trips went to Svalbard, the Greenland and in 2018, she fulfilled her dream of traveling to the Antarctic Peninsula for the first time and she came back. Over the years, she has also developed a growing interest in the history of polar expeditions.

Since 2014, Eva has been working as a ship's doctor for Oceanwide Expeditions. Whenever her vacation time allows, she eagerly comes aboard the ships, a perfect fit for her passion for medicine and the polar regions.

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

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

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

Lifeboat Drill

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

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

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

1930 **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.

- 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 followed by our plans for the day. All passengers please attend.**
Please be prompt at the meeting. The sooner we finish the meeting, the sooner we can get out and explore!
- TBA **Lilliehöökreen – Cruising.**
This morning we will take you out on a zodiac cruise by the Lillehöök glacier. Lilliehöökreen is an enormous 22-kilometer-long glacier complex in north-western Spitsbergen. It features a massive glacier front that spills into 14-kilometer Lilliehöökfjorden, famous for ice calvings, blue-ice cliffs and dramatic Arctic fjord scenery. The name comes from Swedish Naval commander Gustaf Bertil Lilliehöök who was a member of the Swedish Spitsbergen expedition in 1861.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- As we approach Kongsfjord, all Bluetooth and WiFi must be switched off as they interfere with the scientific equipment on shore.**
- TBA **Ny Alesund.** This afternoon we hope to take you 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 museum 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.**
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Buffet Dinner** is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

We will be arriving at the ice edge before breakfast 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).
- 1100 **Ice.** We will spend the day navigating through the pack ice in the high Arctic. If you would like to learn more about ice then please join Aitana in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 1430 **Polar bears.** These are the most iconic species in the Arctic and we all hope to see them during this voyage. If you would like to learn more about these animals then please join Emily in the Lounge.
- 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).

0830 **Phippsøya.** This morning we hope to be able to land at Phippsøya and offer our usual walking groups. This island sometimes has walrus on the beach but is also a place where polar bears are often seen. There is an old trapper's hut near the beach and the walking is relatively easy on the beach and low lying gravel.
Long Hikers please come to the gangway first.

1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).

Expedition Afternoon

This afternoon we will explore the Seven Islands' and Nordaustlandet coastlines. Our activities will be determined by weather and wildlife. *Please listen for announcements.*

TBA **Chermsidøya.** This afternoon we may land on Chermsidøya where we will offer the hiking groups once again. The beach is easy walking sand but the rest of the island is covered with boulders so please take care on the hike.
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.

1900 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.

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

0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).

TBA **Kvitøya – The White Island.** This morning we hope to arrive at Kvitøya, a remote island to the east of Spitsbergen which is rarely visited by ships. The island is covered by an ice cap and it is sometimes a good place to see wildlife, especially walrus and maybe polar bears. No landings are allowed on the island but if conditions are good, we will go out in the zodiacs to explore the coastline. Please dress warmly!

1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).

Expedition Afternoon

This afternoon we will continue to explore the Kvitøya coastline. Our activities will be determined by weather and wildlife. *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 served in the **dining room** (deck 4)

At around 0600 we will start sailing along the ice front of Austfonna so enjoy the views of this huge glacier front while you drink your morning cup of coffee.

0745 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).

During the morning we will ship cruise along Austfonna and Bråsvellbreen. The glacier front of Austfonna is 160km long and Bråsvellbreen is famous for the waterfalls that cascade over the ice edge. Keep a look out for walrus on the ice floes and enjoy the glacier views from deck.

1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).

TBA **Torellneset.** This afternoon we hope to land on the south coast of Nordauslandet at Torellneset. This area is classed as a 'polar desert' with rocky mountain scenery and beautiful views across Hinlopen. Sometimes this is a good place to see walrus on shore so we will offer out usual hikes and some time with the walrus, if they are home.
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.

1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.

1900 **Special Arctic Dinner** is available on Deck 6. Dress warmly!

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0830 **Sundneset.** This landing site is on the south coast of Barentsoya. We hope to take you ashore in a small bay by an old trapper's hut. The area has rich tundra vegetation so we often see reindeer on shore here. We will offer our usual hiking groups on shore.
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- TBA** **Diskobukta.** This is located on Edgeøya. We hope to take you ashore to land near the remains of 2 trapper's huts. There is a small canyon where kittiwakes can be found nesting on the cliffs. We sometimes see Arctic foxes in the area. We will explore the area around the gorge. This will be a perimeter landing so please stay within the guide boundary and enjoy your exploration.
- 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 on Deck 4.

- 0745 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0900 **Burgerbukta.** This fjord is located in the very scenic area of Hornsund. We hope to take you out on a zodiac cruise into the fjord to view the steep slopes on either side which display some of Svalbard's most beautiful geology. At the end is the Paierlbreen, a large glacier flowing into the fjord. Dress warmly!
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- TBA **Gåshamna**
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.
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Vegetarian Dinner** will be served.
Oceanwide are working hard to improve sustainability throughout their operations and as part of this we aim to reduce the amount of meat and fish on board by serving some fully vegetarian meals.
If you would prefer something different then please speak to the dining staff.

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0845 **Alkhornet.** This morning 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 sometime see Arctic foxes amongst the rocks below the cliffs.
At the end of the landing we will offer you the chance to take a Polar Plunge – a swim in the Arctic waters! We'll bring the towels, you bring the insanity!
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- TBA **Ymerbukta.** This is a beautiful fjord with a large glacier at the head of the fjord. We hope to take you ashore to walk towards the glacier face where you can enjoy your last landing on Spitsbergen.
This will be a perimeter landing so please stay between the guides.
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join us in the Lounge for a farewell drink with Captain Per 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 (12:45)** will take a bus from the ship to town. Please put a **RED LABEL** on your luggage. Your bus to the airport will leave town at **10:30**. Your luggage will be waiting for you at the airport in a truck.
- 0900 All guests on Flight **DY391 (17:45)** will take a bus to town. Please put **BLUE LABEL** on your luggage. Your bus to the airport will leave town at **15:45**. Your luggage will be waiting for you at the airport in a truck.
- 0900 All guests staying in town take the bus to town and make your way to your hotel. Please do **NOT** put any label on your luggage. **Take it on the bus with you.**

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