

Around Spitsbergen & Nordaustlandet

26th August – 4th September 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:	Erik Christiaan van der Reijden	[Netherlands]
Bosun:	Lauren Malatag	[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:	Sanne van Beers	[Netherlands]
Chief Electrical Engineer:	Dumitru Orosan	[Romania]
Fitter:	Jonathan Ruiz	[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:	Valeria Mariel Sainz Herrera	[Argentina]
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 – Wednesday 26th August, Longyearbyen – Embarkation Day.

6:00 GPS Position: 78°15.7' N - 015°23.6' E

Wind: W-4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly cloudy, good visibility • Air Temperature: 3.6 °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 everyone 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 around 18:00 to start our journey around Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet.

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 – Thursday 27th August – Ny Ålesund and Ny London.

9:00 GPS Position: 78°57'N - 011°51.1'E

Wind: E-3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast, good visibility • Air Temperature: 12.6°C

After sailing throughout the night, we awoke in Kings Bay, surrounded on both sides by mountains and glaciers.

Some people say that Ny-Ålesund is the capital of the history of the conquest of the North Pole by air - through airplanes and airships - and after having the opportunity to explore it, visit its museum, and walk through the very same places once visited more than once by Roald Amundsen, Umberto Nobile and Lincoln Ellsworth, it is certainly understandable why.



From here, on May 21st, 1925, Amundsen departed with aircrafts N-24 and N-25 on his unsuccessful attempt to reach the North Pole. Far from discouraging him, however, the experience inspired him to return the following year. In 1926, exactly one hundred years ago, he embarked aboard the airship N1 "NORGE" on the successful expedition during which they flew over the North Pole for the first time. On May 12th the three flags - Norwegian, American and Italian - were released over the drifting Arctic ice.

Two years later, Nobile would fly over the North Pole again, this time aboard another airship he had designed, the N4 "ITALIA". On the ill-fated return journey, however, the Arctic ice claimed the lives of several members of his crew, as well as those who came to their rescue, including Amundsen's life.

The 35m high mast where the airships were once moored seemed like an old iron sentinel, patiently awaiting the arrival of the next expedition.

Our walk through the settlement was delightful. We noticed that the residents were working indoors, probably at some of the many scientific research stations located here, representing around ten different countries. Apart from an occasional vehicle traveling along the dusty roads and a gentleman jogging in shorts and a T-shirt, silence and tranquility dominated our time there, interrupted only by the barking of dogs and the calls of a few birds making their presence known. We also spotted some seals along the coast and reindeer.

A visit to the museum, the store where many purchased a few souvenirs and the opportunity to send a postcard from the post office closest to the North Pole brought our first morning of the expedition to a successful start.

In the afternoon, a new adventure awaited us. After a short Zodiac ride from the position where the "*ORTELIUS*" had dropped anchor, we reached the coast of Ny London, an old mining settlement established by Ernest Mansfield. After discovering marble in the surrounding hills, he advised the Northern Exploration Company (NEC) to invest in its extraction around the 1910's.



Although we were able to see only two of the houses still standing - the others were moved to Ny-Ålesund after the mining operations finally closed in 1920 - it was easy to imagine the enormous effort involved when standing in front of the old boilers, railway tracks, mine carts and the crane, which is still remarkably well preserved. Unfortunately, the marble extracted there was not of excellent quality. It contained cracks that caused the blocks to fracture more easily when exposed to higher temperatures during transport

by ship to their eventual processing destination.

Our hikes, divided into three levels of difficulty, allowed us, depending on the route we chose, to see the old structures, several reindeer, various bird species, a beautiful meltwater waterfall and breathtaking landscapes featuring glaciers and deep blue seas under a sunny sky - not exactly the kind of weather one would expect this far into the calendar year.

Before dinner, Ali shared the plans for tomorrow's activities with us, while Valeria gave us some tips on how to get the most out of our mobile phone cameras.



Day 3 – Friday 28th August – Monacobreen & Texas bar.

6:00 GPS Position: 79°32.0'N - 012°27.0'E

Wind: S-3 • Sea: Calm rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 6.9 °C

Monacobreen Glacier Zodiac Cruise

The morning was spent exploring the waters in front of Monacobreen Glacier, navigating carefully through a beautiful concentration of ice. The conditions were excellent, with light winds, good visibility, and beautiful Arctic light creating ideal conditions for viewing the glacier and surrounding landscape. The ice was particularly impressive, with a mixture of large pieces of



glacial ice and darker, greenish marine ice. The contrast between the different types of ice made for an especially scenic cruise as we worked our way through the ice near the glacier front.

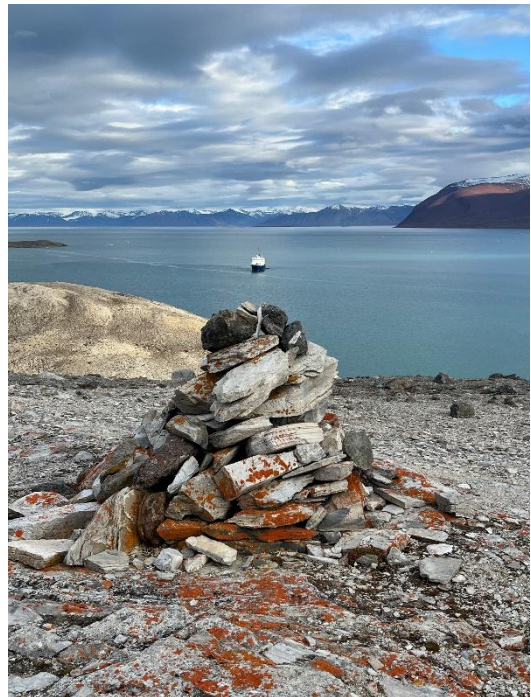
The area also provided excellent opportunities to observe the seabirds that make use of the productive waters around the glacier. Black-legged kittiwakes, northern fulmars, glaucous

gulls, and Arctic terns were among the species observed, with the birds actively using the area around the ice and open water.

Texas Bar Landing

After lunch, we travelled to Texas Bar for an afternoon of hiking. The landing offered several options, allowing guests to spread out across the landscape according to their interests and abilities. The short and medium hikers explored different routes through the surrounding terrain, while the long hikers headed higher into the landscape. The strongest group climbed toward a high point and crossed over the saddle, gaining expansive views across the surrounding valleys and mountains.

A particularly special moment came during the afternoon when we had a sighting of a rare blue morph Arctic fox. The fox provided an unexpected wildlife highlight and added another memorable element to an already excellent afternoon ashore. After several hours of exploring in different directions, the groups gradually made their way back toward the beach. Everyone returned to the



ship tired, satisfied, and ready for a well-deserved dinner after a full day in the Arctic landscape.

It was a classic Svalbard expedition day: glacier ice in the morning, seabirds and wildlife, beautiful light and conditions, followed by an afternoon of hiking, exploration, and an unexpected encounter with one of the Arctic's more elusive animals.

Day 4 – Saturday 29th August – Pack Ice, north of Svalbard.

12:00 GPS Position: 81°41.0'N - 019°05.6'E

Wind: SW-4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 1.8°C

During the night earlier, we began our northbound sail toward the ice pack where we would spend our day today. We arrived at the ice edge at around 06:00. Conditions were foggy and wet, making the visibility for spotting wildlife challenging but this did not discourage the guides and crew from keeping eyes peeled from the bridge at all hours in hopes of wildlife.

As the day went on, the fog came in and out, and the ice conditions changed between very thick and consistent to thin and spaced out, and back again. Occasionally we saw bearded seals in the water, and of course, plenty of different birds following the vessel such as Northern Fulmars, Kittiwakes (adults and juveniles), as well as Ivory Gulls and their juveniles which is quite rare. While we continued our search, guests were educated on topics of ice and polar bears through lectures with Aitana and Emily in the lounge. Around 15:30 just as Emily had finished speaking and suggested we head out on deck, as though it had been scheduled, a polar bear



pulled itself out of the water less than 200 meters from the ship onto the ice. Captain immediately slowed down Ortelius and turned around. As everyone gathered out on deck, the bear stood up on the hind legs with nose in the air smelling us and showing to us that this was clearly a young female bear – likely 3-5 years of age. We spent over an hour with her as she was very curious, coming right to the bow of the ship for inspection of us. Again, she stood on two legs. A very curious bear and one of the favorites of the season. As she began to walk away and disappear into the ice, we celebrated with hot chocolate and rum on the bridge deck.

Day 5 – Sunday 30th August – Phippsøya & Chermisidøya

12:00 GPS Position: 80°31.2'N - 019°38.1'E

Wind: S-3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Calm • Air Temperature: 5.5°C

Our day began with a gentle wake-up call at 7:15 from our Expedition Leader, Ali who shared the outside temperature and weather conditions. It was a beautiful morning with calm seas - we had arrived at Phippsøya.



However, there was an important addition to the morning announcement: the guides had spotted a polar bear ashore. Several of us made our way to the Bridge, where we were able to watch the bear casually strolling along the rocks — remarkably close to where we had planned to land.



Picture: Susan Christianen

With a polar bear occupying our landing site, our plans had to change. For the safety of both the bear and ourselves, the landing was cancelled and Ortelius repositioned to Chermsideøya. Here, some of the guides headed out by Zodiac to investigate a beluga whale carcass and, importantly, to check whether any bears were in the area. They found the carcass still there and almost completely intact.

Back onboard, plan B was announced - we would attempt a landing before lunch. The expedition team headed ashore to scout the site. They had not been gone long when another announcement came over the PA system: a polar bear had been spotted onshore — and it had walked right where we were due to land! It was a reminder of why our guides scout so



Picture: Susan Christianen

thoroughly. Their role is not only to keep us safe, but also to ensure that we do not disturb the wildlife we have come here to experience. And so, Plan B was cancelled. A short while after the staff returned to the ship, the bear could be seen from the comfort and safety of Ortelius. Sure enough, there she was — a female polar bear strolling along our intended landing site.

After a bear-filled morning, we enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch while Ortelius repositioned for our afternoon operations... Plan C!

We arrived at Lågøya for a Zodiac cruise. As we made our way down the gangway, the wind was gusting over 25 knots, making the embarkation a little lively. Wrapped up warmly, we headed out and were very lucky to add Atlantic walrus to our wildlife lists. Some were hauled out, huddled together on the beach, one enormous male rolled down the shore and into the water. Others swimming nearby, their curious heads popping above the water to get a better look. Along the shoreline and overhead, we observed Arctic terns and glaucous gulls, with the terns occasionally diving into the water to snatch prey from below the surface. The wind gradually died down, leaving us with a fabulous afternoon.



Back onboard, we gathered for our evening recap where Emily gave us a presentation on walrus, Ali briefed us on the plans for the following day, and Aline gave us a lesson in Norwegian, helping us understand the meaning behind some of the place names here in Svalbard.

After dinner, many of us gathered in the bar to relax and reflect on an extraordinary day. Outside, fog and rain had settled in, creating a suitably Arctic atmosphere, whilst we watched Disney's *Polar Bear* movie to wrap up another day of expedition.

Day 6 – Monday 31st August – Alkefjellet & Torellneset.

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

Wind: NW-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 4.8°C

Our day began with a 07:15 wake-up call and another beautiful morning in the High Arctic. The weather was on our side, and after enjoying a delicious breakfast in the Dining Room, we wrapped up warmly and prepared ourselves for our first adventure of the day: a Zodiac cruise at the spectacular Alkefjellet.



Alkefjellet is one of Svalbard's most impressive seabird cliffs, rising more than 100 metres almost vertically from the waters of Hinlopen Strait. Its striking rock formations provide nesting ledges for huge numbers of seabirds, particularly Brünnich's guillemots and black-legged kittiwakes during the breeding season. By late August, most of the

Brünnich's guillemots had already left their colonies and begun their migration, but even without them, the towering cliffs remained a spectacular sight.

We boarded our Zodiacs and cruised beneath the dramatic cliffs, surrounded by the characteristic basaltic columns that make this place so impressive. Waterfalls of glacial meltwater tumbled down the dark rock faces and mixed with the green seawater below, creating beautiful swirls of milky-coloured water.

And then came the wildlife!

Near the glacier, we spotted a beautiful white Arctic fox walking along the shoreline. We watched it moving through the landscape, apparently searching for food to cache for the months ahead. Soon there was another fox... and then another! By the end of our Zodiac cruise,



we had spotted an incredible **six Arctic foxes**. Even our guides were amazed by such an extraordinary number of sightings in one morning.

Glaucous gulls and thousands of black-legged kittiwakes brought movement and sound to the enormous cliffs. Although the Brünnich's guillemots had already departed from their nesting ledges for the season, Alkefjellet had lost none of its magic. Between the towering cliffs, waterfalls, glaciers, birds, foxes, and

beautiful conditions, there seemed to be something to discover everywhere we looked.

Eventually, it was time to return to the ship, where a delicious lunch was waiting for us. With full stomachs and plenty of stories from the morning, we continued sailing through Hinlopen Strait towards our next adventure: **Torellneset**.

Located on the southwestern coast of Nordaustlandet, Torellneset introduced us to a completely different face of Svalbard. Here, the lush areas associated with bird cliffs disappeared and the landscape became a true High Arctic polar desert, dominated by exposed rock, gravel, and very sparse vegetation. The wide-open terrain, distant mountains and glaciers

created an almost otherworldly landscape. It is also a well-known area for Atlantic walruses, which use coastal sites such as this to haul out and rest.

Once ashore, we divided as usual into three groups: long, medium, and leisure hikers.

Our long hikers stretched their legs across the rocky terrain and reached a viewpoint overlooking the magnificent Mariebreen Glacier. The medium hikers explored a landscape that seemed almost Martian, taking time to enjoy the scenery and listen to stories from their guides along the way. Meanwhile, our leisure hikers followed the coastline at a relaxed pace, enjoying a peaceful afternoon beside the Arctic Ocean.

And, of course, we were hoping to meet some of Torellneset's most famous residents.

At first, several walruses were swimming close to the shoreline. We watched them appearing and disappearing among the waves until, suddenly, a group decided to haul out onto the beach. It was a wonderful moment. We had plenty of time to observe these enormous and charismatic Arctic animals together, adding yet another memorable wildlife encounter to an already remarkable day.

But the Arctic always had the final word.

While we had been exploring ashore, the already windy conditions had intensified considerably. The sea had become increasingly rough, and large waves were now breaking onto our original landing site, making Zodiac operations there impossible. We therefore moved to the opposite side of the beach, where the Expedition Team worked to establish a safer place from which to get everyone back aboard.

What followed was a true expedition operation. The ship repositioned, while members of the Expedition Team worked together in the water as "catchers," sometimes standing in water up to their waists to hold and stabilize the Zodiacs. At the same time, other guides continued scouting the surrounding landscape for any polar bears that might approach. One Zodiac at a time, and with plenty of teamwork, we gradually made our way safely back to the ship.

After almost six hours of operations ashore, the last members of the Expedition Team finally returned on board. It had been demanding and exhausting work, but also an impressive demonstration of teamwork and of how quickly plans could adapt to the changing conditions of the High Arctic.

And their timing could hardly have been better – the barbecue was already on!

We were treated to a truly Arctic dinner on deck. The wind was strong, but spirits were even stronger, and the delicious food tasted especially good after such an adventurous afternoon.

But the evening was not finished yet.

After dinner, the tables were moved aside and the dancing began! As the ship sailed towards calmer waters, the remaining swell added an unexpected challenge to our dance moves. We laughed, danced, and tried to keep our balance, feeling like true sailors as the movement of the ship provided some extra choreography.

From the spectacular cliffs of Alkefjellet and an incredible six Arctic foxes, to the polar desert of Torellneset, walrus on the beach, an adventurous Zodiac operation, an Arctic barbecue, and dancing on a moving ship, this had been a **true expedition day** from beginning to end.

We finished the evening tired, happy, and with memories that would stay with us for a lifetime.

Day 7 – Tuesday 1st September – Sundneset & Diskobukta.

12:00 GPS Position: 78°00.8'N - 020°51.5'E

Wind: NE-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 3.9°C

Our original plan for today was a morning landing at Sundneset, followed by a perimeter landing at Diskobukta in the afternoon. The Arctic, however, had other plans for us.

Our wake-up call came a little earlier than expected, around 06:45 instead of the planned 07:15, with the news that there were **belugas in the area**. Not a bad reason to get out of bed early!



As we approached Sundneset and started scouting for our landing, we spotted **three polar bears on the hill**. We believe they were the same family we had seen in the area last week and, most importantly, all three were still there. They survived!

After spending some time watching the bears, we headed for breakfast and decided not to

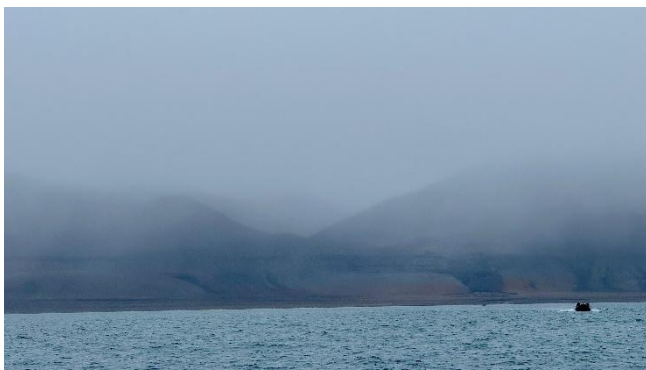
land at Sundneset. The bears were simply too close, so it was time to move on and see what else the day had in store for us.

On our way towards our next destination, another **two polar bears** were spotted near Kapp Lee. Our Expedition Leader, Ali, quickly changed plans and decided on an impromptu Zodiac cruise.



The day was grey and gloomy, but the prospect of seeing polar bears from the Zodiacs made the weather considerably less important. The bears were close enough for some great views and photographs, and after spending some time with them we continued around the corner to visit the walrus.

While cruising around Kapp Lee, we also talked about some of the people who have used this remote outpost over the years, particularly the Dutch scientists who worked here during the 1960s. One of those scientists would later become one of the founders of Oceanwide Expeditions, giving Kapp Lee an interesting connection to the company we are travelling with today.



The walrus were particularly curious, giving us some wonderful encounters from the Zodiacs. Before heading back to the ship, we decided to return to the bears for one last look. By then, they were getting closer to each other and it looked as though we might see some interaction. Eventually, the smaller bear decided it was time to leave and ran away, making us think we were probably watching two

males, with one more dominant than the other. What an encounter!

After lunch, we arrived at Diskobukta. The weather had cleared somewhat, although we could still see fog sitting in the distance. The guides headed ashore to scout, and once everything was clear, we began shuttling guests to the landing site.

About half of our guests were already ashore when the radio suddenly came alive.

“Polar bear, polar bear, polar bear.”

Rustyn’s distinctive voice was calling a bear on land.

That meant only one thing: we had to evacuate the landing site.

All the Zodiacs immediately returned to shore and, in a very efficient operation, everyone was safely evacuated and taken back to the ship. As we were wrapping up the evacuation, the fog began spilling down into the landing site and the surrounding hills slowly disappeared from view. It seemed like a very good moment to be heading back aboard.

With our afternoon landing officially cancelled, the expedition team offered a miscellany of mini lectures instead, including two talks about belugas, one about birds and another about Arctic foxes.

We finished the day with our daily recap before a delicious buffet dinner was served in the dining room.

Belugas, walrus, **six polar bears**, an unexpected Zodiac cruise, an evacuation and Arctic fog swallowing the hills. Our plans may have changed more than once today, but that is very much part of travelling in this part of the world.

What an exciting day in the Arctic!

Day 8 – Wednesday 2nd September – Burgerbukta & Gashamna.

12:00 GPS Position: 76°56.7'N - 015°49.0'E

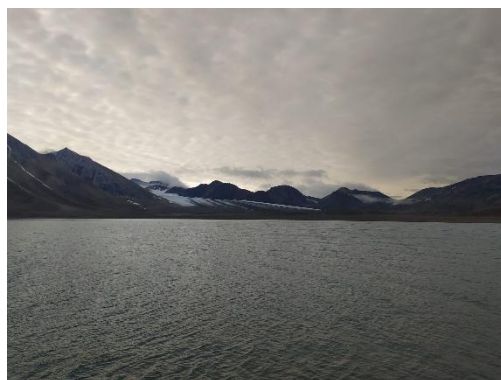
Wind: ENE-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 4.5°C



'Good morning, good morning, everyone'. This morning we started our day with an early landing at Gåshamna, where several hikes were organised. Everyone could enjoy the beautiful beach, the mountain climb, or gentle slopes at their own pace. Gåshamna is well known for the remains of whales that can be found on the beach of the landing site. The whale bones and ruins are associated with the Pomors (Russian trappers). We had a lovely morning at Gåshamna, and everyone was very impressed with the remains

that could be observed. We enjoyed the beautiful views of the bay where our second home, M/V Ortelius, was waiting for our return.

During lunch, we repositioned M/V Ortelius to our next destination: Burgerbukta. We spent our afternoon in Burgerbukta, where several lovely waterfalls can be observed alongside the glacier. The cliffs on the side of the bay were impressive, and iron-deposits were visible. All Zodiacs truly enjoyed the experience of cruising through the brash ice; hearing and listening to the ice, the release of air in the ice, and the sounds of occasional calvings.



Back on board, we enjoyed the briefing from our Expedition Leader Ali about our plans for our final day of exploration the next day. Hotel Manager Volva and Captain Per also came on stage for brief instructions and information for the following day.

Day 9 – Thursday 3rd September – Ymerbukta & Alkhornet.

12:00 GPS Position: 78°13.0'N - 013°52.5'E

Wind: SW-5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temperature: 4°C

Our last full expedition day in Svalbard began hidden beneath a blanket of fog. When the wake-up call came at 07:15, visibility outside was limited, leaving us wondering what the Arctic had planned for us. But while we enjoyed another delicious breakfast on board, conditions began to improve. Slowly, the fog lifted, revealing the landscape around us and giving us the opportunity we had been hoping for: our morning landing at **Alkhornet** was on!



Alkhornet is one of the most impressive bird cliffs on the western side of Spitsbergen, rising dramatically above Isfjorden. During the breeding

season, its steep cliffs provide nesting sites for thousands of seabirds, particularly black-legged kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots. The nutrients brought by all these birds fertilize the slopes below, creating unusually rich tundra that attracts Svalbard reindeer and, in turn, Arctic foxes searching for opportunities around the colony.

Once ashore, we divided into our usual three hiking groups – long, medium, and leisure – and set off to explore this beautiful landscape at our own pace.

Wherever we walked, the sounds of the bird cliff accompanied us. Kittiwakes filled the air with their calls, bringing life and movement to the towering landscape above. On the grassy slopes, we encountered Svalbard reindeer quietly walking and feeding on the vegetation seemingly unconcerned by our presence.



Some of us were particularly lucky and spotted Arctic foxes moving amongst the rocks below the cliffs. We watched as they searched for opportunities among the birds, a wonderful chance to observe the relationship between predator and prey in this remarkable Arctic ecosystem.

Eventually, it was time for another important moment – and for some of us, perhaps the bravest moment of the entire voyage!

The Polar Plunge!

Those willing to take the challenge changed into their swimsuits and prepared themselves for a very quick encounter with the icy Arctic waters. There were screams, laughter, surprised faces, and plenty of encouragement from those watching safely from shore. It was cold, it was crazy, and it was certainly memorable. After taking the plunge, we could officially say that we really felt like polar explorers!

Back aboard, a warm shower had rarely felt so good. We then gathered in the Dining Room for another delicious lunch while the ship repositioned towards the destination of our final landing of the voyage: **Ymerbukta**.



Ymerbukta is a beautiful bay on the northern side of Isfjorden, stretching approximately six kilometres towards Esmarkbreen. This impressive glacier flows down from Oscar II Land and forms the dramatic backdrop to the bay. Surrounded by mountains, glacial moraines, meltwater streams, and exposed terrain

shaped by the movement and retreat of the ice, it was a fitting landscape for our final steps ashore in Svalbard.

For the afternoon, we enjoyed a perimeter landing. Our guides positioned themselves strategically around the area, keeping watch over the surrounding landscape and allowing us the freedom to explore safely within the marked routes.

We could choose our own little adventure. Following one route, we walked across the moraine towards the foot of Esmarkbreen, getting closer to the impressive glacier and appreciating its scale from ground level. In the other direction, we climbed a small mountain to reach a viewpoint overlooking the bay. From the top, we were rewarded with magnificent views across Ymerbukta, the glacier, the surrounding mountains, and the waters of Isfjorden.

There was something particularly special about this afternoon. We knew that every step was taking us closer to the end of our final landing, and after everything we had experienced together during the voyage, it was difficult not to feel a little emotional.

Eventually, the moment came. We walked back towards the beach, climbed into our Zodiacs one more time, and made our way back to the ship. Our **last landing of this incredible expedition was complete.**

But the day – and our celebration – was far from over.

Instead of our traditional evening recap, we gathered in the Lounge for the **Captain's Cocktail**. It was quite a transformation to see the Expedition Team, whom we had become accustomed to seeing in expedition gear, rubber boots, lifejackets, and waterproof trousers, suddenly looking so smart and elegant!

Captain Per welcomed us and raised a glass to our voyage before one final piece of ship memorabilia went looking for a new home: the ship's flag. An entertaining auction followed, giving one lucky guest the opportunity to take home a very special souvenir from our journey.

Our Expedition Leader Ali then shared a few words about the adventure we had experienced together before Brenya presented a beautiful slideshow of our voyage. As photographs from the previous days appeared on the screen, we relived so many moments – landscapes, wildlife, laughter, landings, Zodiacs, and all the unexpected experiences that had made our expedition unique. Seeing everything together made those memories feel even more special.

Then came time for our final dinner on board.

Once again, we enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the wonderful galley team. During the evening, we also had the opportunity to meet and thank the complete Hotel Department – the people who had worked tirelessly behind the scenes throughout our voyage, making our time aboard so comfortable and ensuring that we were always so well looked after.

Later, we gathered for our last drinks at the bar. We shared photographs, exchanged stories and contact details, laughed about our adventures, and remembered favorite moments from the journey.

Our expedition was arriving at its end, but the experiences we had shared were not ending with it. We had explored wild landscapes, encountered extraordinary wildlife, faced the changing Arctic weather, travelled together by Zodiac, walked across the tundra, stood beside glaciers, laughed together, and created friendships and memories along the way.

Tomorrow we would return to Longyearbyen and say our goodbyes.

But Svalbard – and this incredible journey together – would remain in our minds for the rest of our lives.

Day 10 – Friday 4th September – Longyearbyen, Disembarkation Day.

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

Wind: S-2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air Temperature: 4°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 m/v *Ortelius*, our home from home, for the last 9 days.

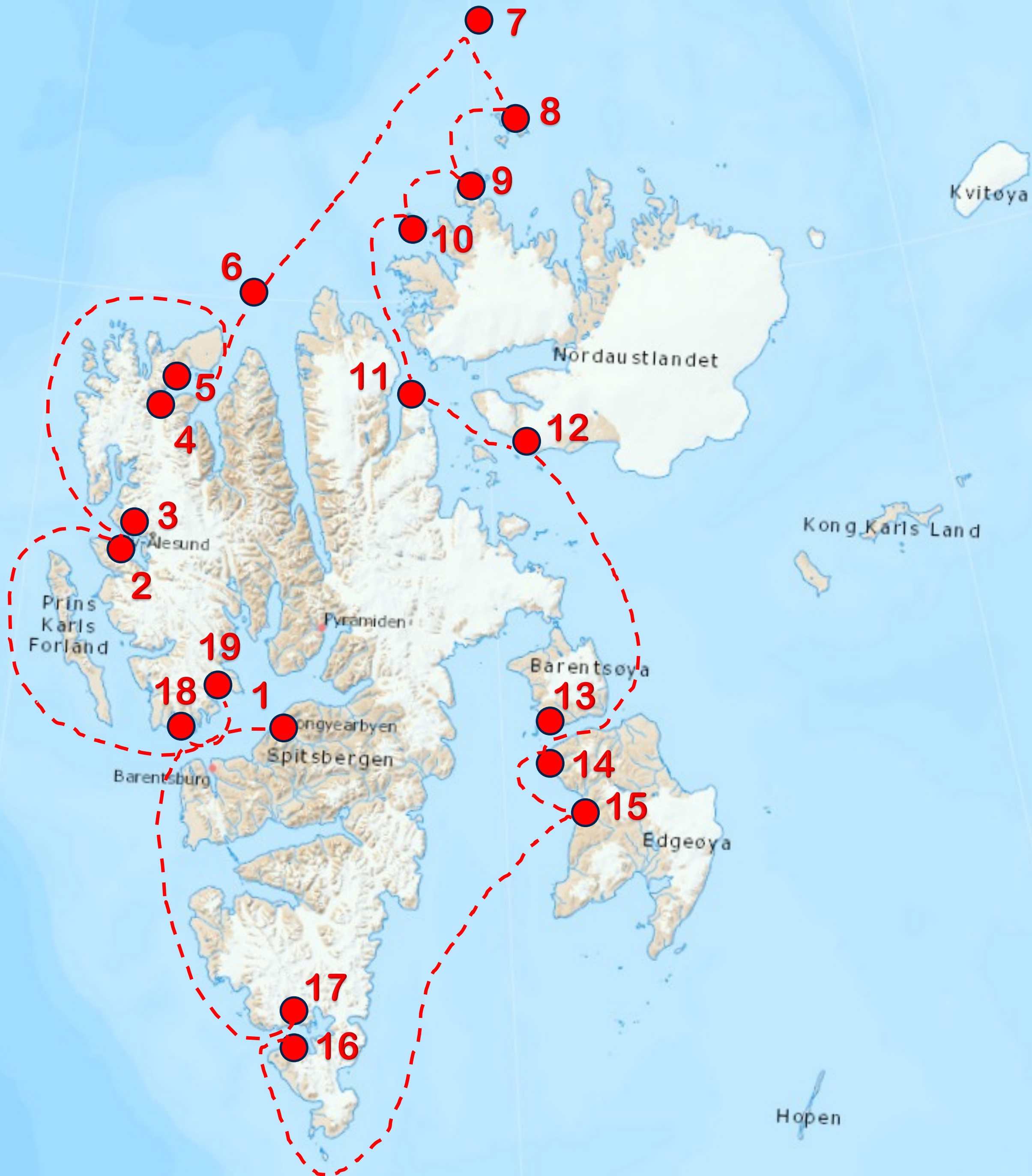
Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1,141 nautical miles
Farthest north: 81°41.0' N, 019°05.6' E



Your Oceanwide Expedition Team

Standing (L-R): Doctor Eva, Emily, Aitana, Ali, Susanne, Brenya, Valeria, Aline.

Seated (L-R): Marcelo, Rustyn.



Day 1 :(1) Longyearbyen

Day 2 :(2) Ny-Alesund

:(3) Ny-London

Day 3 :(4) Monacobreen

:(5) Texas Bar

:(6) Moffin Island

Day 4 :(7) Pack Ice

Day 5 :(8) *Phippsøya* **BEAR!**

:(9) *Chemsdeøya* **BEAR!**

:(10) Lågøya

Day 6 :(11) Alkefjellet

:(12) Torellneset

Day 7 :(13) *Sundneset* **BEAR!**

:(14) Kapp Lee

:(15) *Discobukta* **BEAR!**

Day 8 :(16) Gashamna

:(17) Burgerbukta

Day 9 :(18) Alkehornet

:(19) Ymerbukta



August 26 – Sept 4, 2026

Total Nautical Miles: 1143

MAMMALS

[illegible]

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 with 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.

Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide



Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentine photographer. She grew up in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Throughout the years she has found that one of her greatest passions is to travel to the wildest and remotest places around the world. So, traveling as much as she could, she found in the photography, a profession that gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations.

Nowadays she spends her life between “the poles”, working as a guide for Oceanwide Expeditions, and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island names Ilhabela in Brazil,

working in tourism area.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Argentinian Patagonian Andes or camping and hiking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like scuba diving, kayaking and sailing.

She is also particularly interested in the history of the expeditions that discovered and mapped some of the places we are about to visit. This gives her the chance to share fascinating stories on board.

The Antarctic and The Arctic were always a dream of her, and now are part of her life.

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 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.

Around Spitsbergen

Thursday 27th August 2026

Ny Alesund and Ny London

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 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!
- Ny Alesund.** This morning 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. **Please do not leave the settlement on your own.**
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- TBA **Ny London, Blomstrandhalvøya.** For our first landing we hope to take you ashore at Ny London where we will offer our hiking groups for the morning. There is a historic hut at the landing site and the relics of a marble mine. We sometimes see reindeer here and there are small lakes which are good for bird watching.
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 **Buffet Dinner** is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

- 0745 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0915 **Monacobreen.** This morning 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. This is named after Prince Albert I of Monaco, for his 1898-1907 oceanographic expedition to map the area. Dress warmly and enjoy the ice. We will be looking for seals and other wildlife.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- TBA **Texas Bar.** This morning we hope to take you ashore at Texas Bar where there is one of the best trapper huts in Svalbard. Maybe the bar will be open!
It is also a really good place hike in the lower hills so we will offer our hiking groups.
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 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)

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).
- 0845 **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.
- 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 (deck 4)

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0830 **Alkefjellet.** This morning we hope to take you out on a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet. The sea cliffs here are over 100 metres high and during the high summer they are home to around 60,000 pairs of Brünnich's guillemots. It is one of the most impressive seabird cliffs in Svalbard. It is late in the season but we hope to still see some birds around the cliffs. We will be out in the boats for 1.5 to 2 hours so please dress warmly.
- 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 our usual hikes and allow some time to see 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!



Around Spitsbergen

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Sundneset and Diskobukta

- 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.



Around Spitsbergen

Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Gåshamna and Burgerbukta

- 0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- 0845 **Gåshamna**
This morning 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 and whaling. We some times see foxes here too.
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1230 **Lunch Buffet** is available in the **dining room** for 1 hour (deck 4).
- TBA **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!
- 1830 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room.

- 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 explore the area on your own but withing the safety of the guides.
Follow the BLUE poles towards the glacier.
Follow the RED poles up the hill to the viewpoint.
Please stay on the marked route where the guides will be placed for your safety.
Please make sure your boots are clean before you leave the beach!
- 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 (12:35)** 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 (14:05)** will take a bus to town. Please put **BLUE LABEL** on your luggage. Your bus to the airport will leave town at **12:00**. 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.