



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Spitsbergen: Polar Bear Special

on board

m/v Ortelius

May 31 – June 07, 2017



M/V *Ortelius* was 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. MV *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland, as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science and was named *Marina Svetaeva*. In 2011 she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions. The vessel was re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius*. Now the ship is sailing as a 125-passenger vessel. *Ortelius* is 91 m long, 17,6 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5,80 m, with an Ice Strength rating of UL1/1A, top speed of 13 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.

Captain Mika Appel

and his international crew of 50

including

First Officer:	Sam Cook	[Great Britain]
Second Officer:	Laimonas Choroscia	[Lithuania]
Third Officer:	John Williams	[Great Britain]
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	[Latvia]
Hotel Manager:	Dejan Nikolic	[Serbia]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Lilian van Meurs	[Poland]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Ship's Physician:	Jacco Veldhuijzen	[The Netherlands]

and

Expedition Leader:	Jan Belgers	[The Netherlands]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Arjen Drost	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Alex Chavanne	[France/USA]
Expedition Guide:	Marie Brekkhus	[Norway]
Expedition Guide:	Sandra Petrowitz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Iain Rudkin	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Aad Wever	[The Netherlands]
Dive Team Leader:	Ashley Cordingley	[Great Britain]
Dive Guide:	Will Gilbertson	[Great Britain]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Wednesday, 31st May 2017

Longyearbyen

GPS position at 1600: 78°14.0' N, 015°37.4' E

Wind: calm Weather: clear skies Temperature: 9 °C



On this beautifully sunny, stunningly warm day in Longyearbyen, when we made our way to the pier we found out that indeed we were about to embark on an adventurous voyage. *Ortelius* was at anchor out in the fjord, and once we had arrived to the small pier we met members of the expedition team who took care of our luggage and handed us lifejackets – our transfer to the ship would be by zodiac. Soon we were crossing the calm waters towards the ship. After we had made our way up the *Ortelius* gangway, we met the hotel team who showed us to our cabins. As soon as we had settled into our comfortable home for the next 8 days, most of us found themselves either on the outside decks to enjoy the views and the sunshine or in the bar for a coffee or tea.

Soon it was time to gather in the lecture room for several welcome briefings. One was by our Expedition Leader Jan Belgers, another by our hotel manager Dejan (DJ). We were also briefed by Third Officer John on ship safety and how to prepare for the worst. A drill of the general alarm (seven short

blasts followed by one long blast) was made, and we all donned the SOLAS orange life jackets and mustered in the bar guided by crew and staff. After a roll call to assure everyone was present we went out to the lifeboats and some of us actually went inside.

We returned to our cabins briefly before regrouping with Captain Mika Appel in the lounge for a welcoming toast of champagne or juice before heading down to the dining room for our first scrumptious dinner prepared by Chef Heinz and his staff. Meanwhile, *Ortelius* made her way through Isfjorden towards the open sea. Just as we had finished dessert, our Expedition Leader Jan told us that there was a special treat waiting for us: whales had been sighted just ahead of the ship! And there they were, several blows beautifully backlit against the coastline – one, another one, yet another one, and wait, there's more! With excitement and awe we watched four species of baleen whales – Blue whale, Fin whale, Minke whale and Humpback whale – blowing, surfacing, diving, and the Humpback even breached right in front of us. What an exciting first day, and what a start to our voyage!



Day 2 – Thursday, 1st June 2017

Danskøya & pack ice

GPS position at 0800: 79°17.5' N, 009°42.6' E

Wind: calm Sea: calm (rippled) Weather: clear skies Temperature: 11°C



When we were woken by Jan's soft voice in the morning it was sunny – again. It didn't really feel very arctic but few complaints were heard. After breakfast we were all called to the lecture room for a briefing on how to behave onshore, in the zodiacs, and how to avoid being eaten by a Polar Bear. Handing out the rubber boots was postponed for a while as we had another wildlife encounter. After



the beautiful whale experience the previous day, we now found some Walrus haunched out on ice floes. The captain managed to pass them several times inching closer and closer. It was really nice to see those high-arctic seals peacefully resting on the ice.

After we had gotten our rubber boots we all headed outside again. The captain steered *Ortelius* through Sjørgattet, the narrow strait between

Danskøya and the main island Spitsbergen. Splendid scenery all around, many ice floes in the water, some of them with more Walrus, snow-covered mountains as a backdrop and all of that in beautiful weather: for most of us it was really difficult to go inside to have lunch.

After lunch it turned out we couldn't go ashore on Smeerenburg on Amsterdamøya. There was too much ice around the landing site, and if it moved position we might get trapped on the island. Quickly



a "Plan B" was formed by the expedition staff and we now went ashore on nearby Danskøya. Here we were given snowshoes to put under our rubber boots as the island was still completely covered in snow. We split up in several groups and off we went. Some of us climbed higher hills, some smaller ones while others walked along the shores, but all enjoyed the spectacular scenery and the historical stories that were told. From where we were walking we could see many different places of historical interest, from the remains of 17th-century whaling on Smeerenburg, to Virgohamna where many, mostly ill-fated, expeditions by air to the North Pole had started. The best known was that of the Swede Andrée, who tried to get to the Pole with two companions in a hydrogen-filled balloon. Thirty-three years after departure they were found on Kvitøya, with their diaries and even unprocessed pictures next to their bodies, so their fate could be reconstructed. It turned out they had crashed onto the ice, far south of their goal, and had made their way



back to land. However, due to the drift of the ice they had only managed to reach the very barren Kvitøya, soon after which they had died due to unknown causes. It was very interesting to see these historical places. It made us think about the conditions the explorers of those times had to survive in and made us feel lucky about our own.

Back on the ship we cruised between some islands before the captain turned the ship north. After dinner the ship's horn was suddenly blown: we had crossed the 80th parallel – a line that few people cross. A few minutes after crossing this imaginary line, we hit the pack ice. Another very special sight. Many people went outside to enjoy this spectacle. Our guides had told us there was a lot of ice this year, something we could now see with our own eyes. Binoculars were used in the search for Polar Bears, but they didn't want to show (yet). As the sun didn't set, we really had to look at our watches to see it was time to go to bed. A difficult decision when it's this beautiful outside...

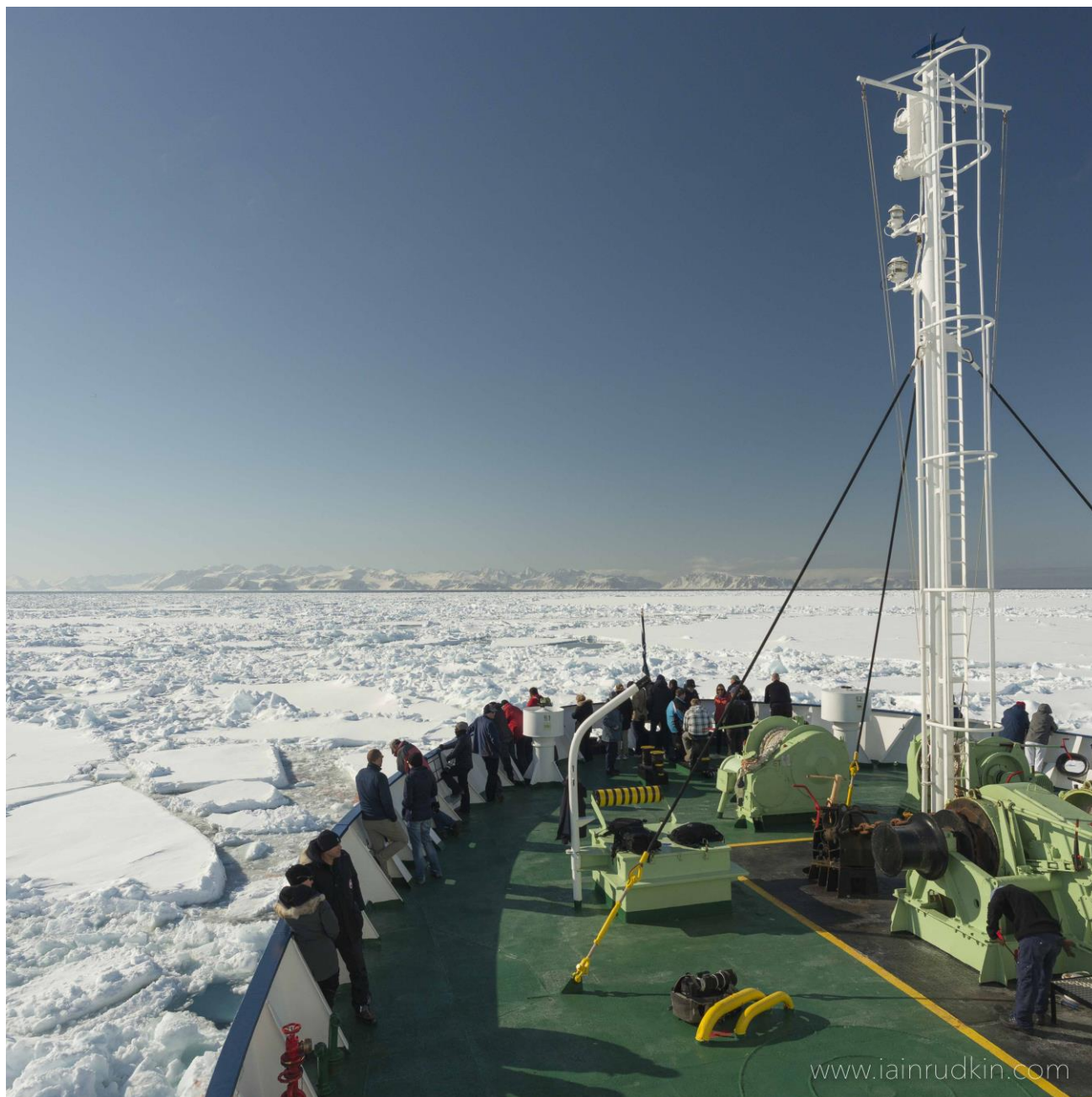


Day 3 – Friday, 2nd June 2017

Pack ice & Raudfjord

GPS position at 1200: 79°51.2' N, 012°30.9' E

Wind: S 3 Sea: slight Weather: clear skies Temperature: 5°C



Waking up in the fringes of the northern pack ice is a fairly unique experience and one few will ever experience. A vista of interconnected ice floes extending towards the northern pole and beyond to the American Arctic leads one to introspection and thoughts naturally tend towards the early pioneers of this inhospitable landscape. The days *Ortelius* spent in the ice were breathtakingly calm,

warm and pleasant but for the indigenous populations, whalers, scientists and explorers who made their livelihood, names and fortunes from this region of the planet, life was not always as agreeable. It can be an incredibly hostile and unforgiving environment. Many died or were lost, never to be found, thousands of kilometers from their homes and loved ones. In the digital age, it is sometimes hard to comprehend just what it must have been like to head north, not for two weeks but for two years! Limited communication, poor living conditions and with dangers constantly threatening mortality, this was not a life for the average person.

The morning saw the ship whilst not actually beset in the ice, surrounded by large floes at eighty degrees north. For those with a penchant for figures, it took captain and crew 2h 45min to negotiate 1.5 nm of 9/10 pack ice to get *Ortelius* back into relatively open water which gives some appreciation of the concentration of the pack. Many on board would have come to see polar bears, but for me, being in such pack ice is so much more unique an experience. So few vessels are rated to be able to negotiate thisty kind of icy waters, even fewer accessible to the public. And to do so in such favourable conditions: blue skies and t-shirt weather! Amazing!



No doubt polar bears will be seen during this voyage but looking back on the trip in a year's or more time, spare a thought as to where you were on this day in the pack ice also. Think of the many who came before in a different age, under vastly different conditions, and to those who never made it back.



Day 4 – Saturday, 3rd June 2017

Sarstangen & Fuglehuken

GPS position at 0800: 78°57.0' N, 011°01.8' E

Wind: SSE 4 Sea: moderate Weather: cloudy Temperature: 4°C



Three Arctic Limericks

We started our day with some walrus
Their size and tusks wow'ed all of us
Barely moving a muscle
They aren't ones to bustle
They barely acknowledged *Ortelius*

During lunch the ship set sail
And soon after we headed out into a Gale
The birds were quite numerous
And guides knowledge was luminous
For a true Svalbard day we didn't fail

We stumbled upon a reindeer
To us it showed almost no fear
As the shutters clicked
Its eyelashes barely flicked
It really allowed us to get quite near

Alex Chavanne



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Day 5 – Sunday, 4th June 2017

Hornsund: Samarinvågen & Brepollen

GPS position at 0800: 77°04.1' N, 014°14.7' E

Wind: NNW 5 Sea: moderate Weather: partly cloudy Temperature: 4°C



Hornsund is said to be Spitsbergen in a nutshell, and indeed it was. We went south during the night and woke up approaching the mouth of Hornsund in the morning hours, heading towards the sun, the glaciers, and hopeful for a bear sighting. Already from afar you could see the Hornsund peak (Hornsundtinden) towering in an icy white coat watching over its sound. One breathtaking ship cruise later, we arrive in Samarinvågen bay (Samarinvågen) with fast ice ahead of the glacier front, smaller glaciers hanging down from the sides, and with fresh polar bear tracks along the shoreline. We followed them intensely through our binoculars, all eyes on deck, hoping to get a glimpse of the king of this arctic world.

And then those two words sounded over the front deck: polar bear! An immediate buzz of haste and excitement spread across



the ship. Where was it? Binocular by binocular, we all got tuned in on the sight, and what a sight it was! The majestic animal walked steadily along the shoreline, coming closer to the edge of the sea ice and our ship. We could follow its every turn, climb and even a little swim on its way to the mouth of the fjord. After a quick lunch, we hopped in the zodiacs and set out to further watch the bear continuing its walk on the beach.

Finally leaving the bear behind as it was now resting on the ice in front of the Mendeleevbreen, we took our zodiacs to the next bay, escaping the cold gusts of wind. Some saw the King eider, and a few seals popped up here and there. Finally, we all surrendered to the peaceful atmosphere of the quiet bay, watching a bearded seal pup resting on an ice floe. Its mother fishing for food would every now and then stick her head up and do a check-up on her young one. Quite some of the magic in these powerful moments lies within the fact that we are only visitors in this part of the world. For a short while



we too can sit quietly among ice floes, taking it all in and thus briefly be part of a world that keeps on turning long after we are gone. The hunt continues, the tide ebbs and flows, and the glaciers will continuously make their way to the sea.

Let's not forget that an amazing day was rounded off with an After Polar Bear Barbeque on the helicopter deck. Excellent food served with a side dish of prima vista and a hot toddy with a buzz, the party kept on going long after the tables had been stowed away.



Day 6 – Monday, 5th June 2017

Hornsund: Gnålodden & Brepollen

GPS position at 0800: 77°01.6' N, 015°56.4' E

Wind: calm Sea: calm (rippled) Weather: fog Temperature: 7°C



We awoke to find *Ortelius* approaching the entrance to Hornsund fjord. A stunning landscape of jagged mountains and glaciers unfolded. Cameras clicked incessantly as people responded to the dramatic geology. The peak of Bautaen dominated the landscape. Another beautiful day – the sun shone, although it was a cold wind.

After an early breakfast, excited passengers boarded the zodiacs for a lengthy ride to the enormous bird cliff at Gnålodden. After landing, guides formed a perimeter guard, enabling everyone on shore to wander freely between the Wanny Woldstad trapper's cabin and the steep hillside. Thousands of birds screeched as they wheeled overhead and nested on the ledges. The two diver boats drifted between a couple of offshore islands following the trail of bubbles left on the surface.



A lucky group of photographers saw a brown scruffy-looking fox make an appearance high on the hillside at the base of the cliff and dived on and killed a hapless bird. Everyone spread out across the designated area guarded by guides and enjoyed this beautiful location.

The zodiac trip back was bouncy and wet as the boats were forced to head into the wind and waves.



After lunch a ship cruise along the edge of the fast ice proved profitable as a mother bear with two cubs was spotted in front of a glacier. The bears were far from the ship and difficult to see without binoculars. *Ortelius* explored further into the fjord, everyone scanning the landscape for another



sighting. After a period of time another excited call, the bears seen earlier were now approaching across the ice. What happened next was one of those magnificent rare encounters.



The mother bear and the two playful and curious cubs approached the ship and moved along the ice edge adopting various poses much to the delight of the constantly snapping photographers, crew, guides and passengers.



After a reasonable length of time the ship moved off and left the bears to their peaceful expanse of fast ice.

The fjord cruise continued towards the glacier and another bear was spotted high

on the hillside but as it was walking inland it was hard to photograph. After dinner, a lengthy recap by Jan, Arjen, the plastic researchers and Bill with 'Looking, Seeing, Thinking' related to painting of the sea, completed a superb day.

For many passengers this was an intensely emotional day in a voyage full of stunning experiences.

Day 7 – Tuesday, 6th June 2017

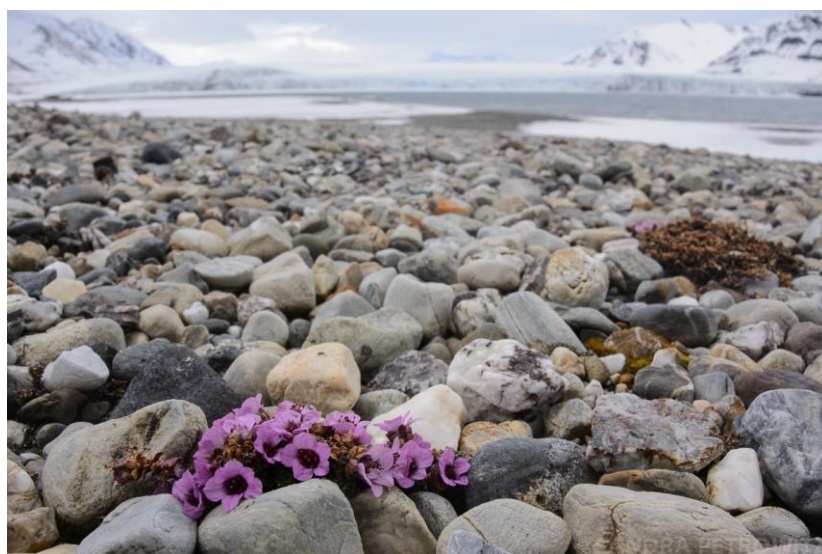
Bellsund: Recherchebreen & Van Keulenfjorden

GPS position at 0800: 77°32.6' N, 014°39.6' E

Wind: ENE 7 Sea: moderate Weather: partly cloudy Temperature: 8°C



At nine o'clock we found ourselves in Recherchefjorden, named after the 1838/1839 French scientific expedition which wintered here. Our fjord was sheltered while in Van Keulenfjord, of which Recherchefjorden is a branch, the wind was reaching speeds up to 30 knots or more. We were thus in more tranquil waters and a short and comfortable zodiac ride took us to the shore from where we went inland: small heaps of pebbles, small lakes with melting snow and a large lagoon, all of which were the product of the now-retreating Recherchebreen. This bre (= Norwegian for glacier)



substantially surged a number of years ago as evidenced by rather higher heaps of sand and stones, seemingly pushed forward by a giant bulldozer. The glacier has now retreated leaving a giant part of ice on the side: so-called dead ice, ice no longer connected to the glacier.

Scenic though this all was, the small hummocks are the perfect hiding place for our whitish-

yellowish pluffy friends so every now and then the guides stopped us to do a short recce so as not to be surprised by a Polar bear.

Small lakes, some containing water, others still ice-covered, made for fantastic photography with Recherchebreen forming an impressive background. Ice ridges invited some of us for extensive photo sessions. Closer to the glacier three Ringed seal were observed, which, however, quickly disappeared. Katabatic winds (powerful cold winds coming from the glacier) were interspersed with windstill moments, showing how quickly the weather can change up in Svalbard. Coats went off and on! In sheltered places early saxifrage showed its splendid purple colours, much to the delight of the photographers.

Recherchefjorden has seen many of the mostly failed industrial enterprises in Svalbard: in Recherchefjorden the Northern Exploration Company, headed by Ernest Mansfield carried out exploritative mining on magnetite, asbestos and coal. In the end the company went bankrupt as the Svalbard climate and the short season make mining very expensive. Of an other dimension are the remains of the Russian Pomor stations, the hardy Russian trappers who, among many other places in Svalbard, also overwintered in Recherchefjorden.

By 12.30 all of us had returned to *Ortelius* for a well-deserved lunch. Afterwards we left Recherchefjorden and were heading towards Bellsund, the great fjord. *Ortelius* slowly ploughed her way through the choppy waves, again against the background of an impressive scenery. Slowly we were heading for Isfjorden where we had started our expedition a week ago ... just one week?! Sure enough, our voyage had an ending just as splendid as the start: It was whale-watching time again as a Humpback was feeding literally right next to *Ortelius* ...



Day 8 – Wednesday, 7th June 2017

Longyearbyen

GPS position at 0800: 78°13.8' N, 015°36.1' E

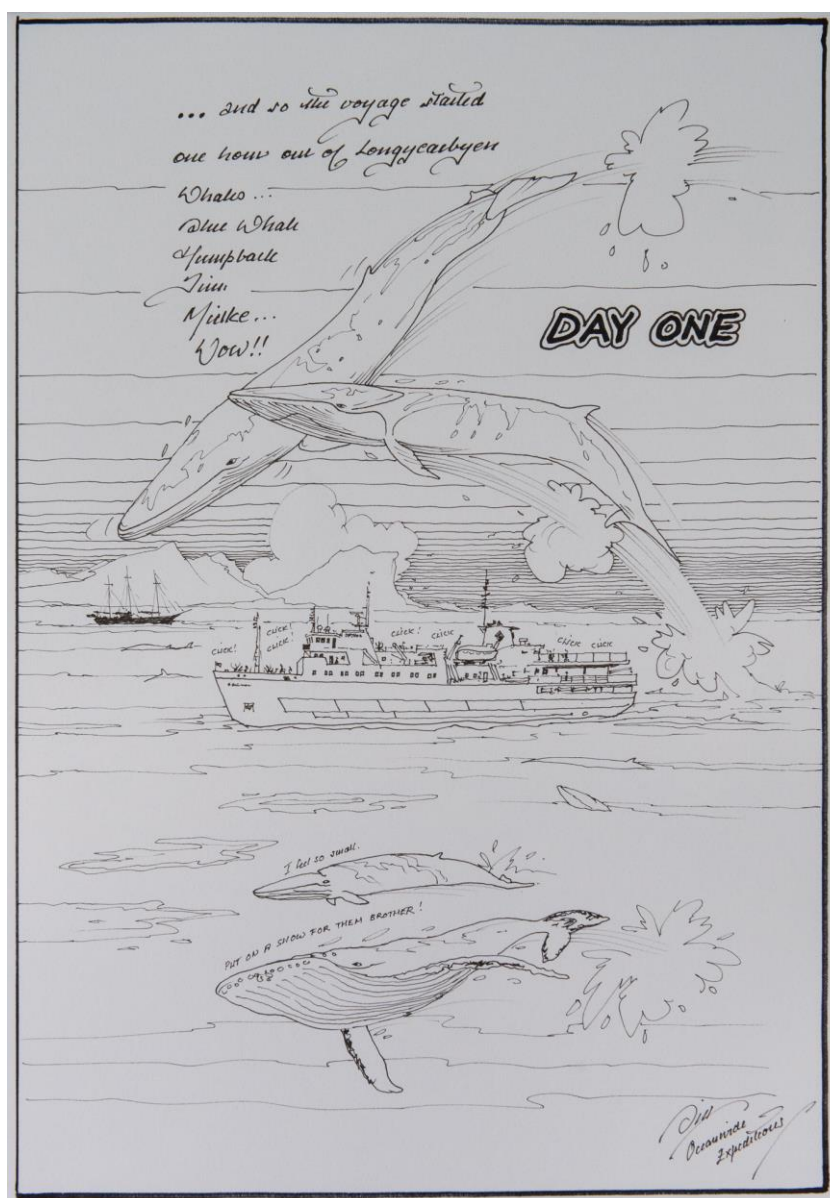
When *Ortelius* arrived at the port of Longyearbyen it was hard to believe that a week had passed since we had left – it seemed like yesterday, yet also a long time ago. The expedition voyage had exceeded all our expectations, and of all our lucky and truly amazing wildlife sightings, the most special ones certainly had been the Polar Bear mother with her cubs, the first evening's whales and the walrus on the ice. And those were but a few of many truly magic moments we had encountered ...

After our unforgettable and very special trip which had led us to both the northern and the southern part of Spitsbergen, we were rich in memories and knowledge about the Arctic and its wildlife. It was sad to say goodbye to the ship and its crew and to the new friends we had made during this trip. But we were also full of anticipation and looking forward to returning to the high latitudes soon as the polar bug clearly had gotten hold of us. This amazing trip will last us a lifetime – in our memories, in our imagination, and in our dreams.

*Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company,
good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future,
wherever that might be!*

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 735 nautical miles (1.361 km)

Furthest North: 80°04.1' N / 011°50.9' E



On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Mika Appel, Expedition Leader Jan Belgers, Hotel Manager Dejan Nikolic and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



- 1 - Longyearbyen**
- 2 - Isfjord, whales**
- 3 - Danskøya**
- 4 - Pack ice (zodiac cruise)**
- 5 - Raudfjord**
- 6 - Sarstangen**
- 7 - Fuglehuken**
- 8 - Samarinvagen**
- 9 - Gnålodden**
- 10 - Brepollen**
- 11 - Recherchebreen**



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Did you catch a rare seabird on the fly? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

If you've been a passenger on any one of our past voyages we want to see your pictures.

You're free to send in as many pictures as you wish. The best pictures are the ones that capture what it's like to take one of our special expeditions to the remote and beautiful ends of the Earth.



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WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by January 15, 2018.

Read the terms and conditions of the contest on www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms



Kayaking the Waters of Antarctica The weather changes so dramatically down here that you simply cannot say, "this looks like a great day" if it is one – rather you must live in the moment and perhaps a more appropriate phrase might be, "this looks like a great moment"! After enduring Force 8 winds on the Beaufort Wind Scale the Ortelius (our home during this Antarctica cruise) pulled into calm waters at Georges Point affording us our first close look at the breathtaking scenery (icebergs, glaciers and mountainous

TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION 2017

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Write about your experience!

What was it like to camp out under the Antarctic sky? Was it scary when you encountered a polar bear? Was this your first cruise and were you nervous about crossing open waters?

After all, how your expedition made you feel is what you're going to carry with you for the rest of your life. If you share your experience you just might win yourself a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

Here's what you need to do:

1. Write a post (600 – 1200 words) in Dutch, English, or German about what excited you the most on your Oceanwide Expeditions cruise. The topic is entirely up to you.
2. Make sure you add tiles and subtitles to the story.
3. Create a hyperlink or two inside of your post that links back to the particular trip you took as found on our website. The link could connect to the ship's page, the trip itinerary, the particular destination's page, or perhaps a page related to one of the activities you enjoyed.
4. Add 3 to 5 pictures (they should be 2 MB minimum in size, in landscape format and attached separately when you decide to send your entry to us).
5. Post it online and send us the URL where your story is published. **OR** send your post to us at marketing@oceanwide-expeditions.com. Either way, make sure you include your full name and e-mail address.
6. **Spread the word!**



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**ENTRIES CLOSE
DECEMBER 31**

Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by January 15, 2018

Read the full terms and conditions on oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms

Birds and Mammals of Svalbard and Franz Josph Land

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	Breeding / Transient / Vagrant	31-mei	1-jun	2-jun	3-jun	4-jun	5-jun	6-jun
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker	V							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sternaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeelduiker	B		X					
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstolpel	Fou de Bassan	Jan-van-gent	T							
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Singschwan	Cygne chanteur	Wilde zwaan	T							
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Saatgans	Oie des moissons	taigarietgans	V							
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzchnabelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans	B	X					X	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branla leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans	B	X			X	X	X	
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Blassgans	Oie Rieuse	Kolgans	V							
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans	V							
Brent Goose	<i>Branla bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans	B				X			
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwans	V							
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Pfeifente	Canard siffleur	Smient	T							
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Sarcelle d'hiver	Wintertaling	B							
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Stockente	Canard colvert	Wilde eend	T							
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Spießente	Canard pilet	Pijlstaart	B							
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente	Fuligule morillon	Kuifeend	T							
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eider eend	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Koningseider	B	X	X			X		
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Eider de Steller	Stellers eider	V							
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boreale	Ilseend	B				X			
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend	B/T							
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Schellente	Garrot à oeil d'or	Brilduiker	V							
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpensneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Spitsbergen Sneeuwhoen	B							
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer	Huitrier Pie	Scholekster	V							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbekplevier	B				X			
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré	Goudplevier	B							
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper	B			X	X			
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Graubruststrandläufer	Bécasseau lacheté	Gestreepte strandloper	V							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper	B	X	X		X		X	X
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetstrandloper	B							
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper	B				X			
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Regenbrachvogel	Courlis corlieu	Regenwulp	T							
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel	Chevalier gambette	turleuur	V							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwätzer	Tournepierre à collier	Steenloper	B							
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot	B				X			
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalarope à bec étroit	Grauwe franjepoot	B							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager	T							
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager	B				X		X	
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager	B					X		
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Grote jager	B		X					
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaartmeeuw	B						X	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Mouette rieuse	Kokmeeuw	V							
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Goéland cendré	Stormmeeuw	V							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique	Kleine burgemeester	T							
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Goéland argenté	Zilvermeeuw	V							

Jan Belgers – Expedition Leader



Jan Belgers, from the Netherlands, has been guiding Polar voyages for many years now. His first experience with the Polar Regions was in 1990 when he joined a scientific expedition from Iceland to Kapp Farvell in Greenland for the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE). In 1992 he joined another scientific expedition, the Winter Weddell Gyre Study (WWGS) into the remote Weddell Sea, and wintered there. During these expeditions Jan got bitten by the Polar Bug and he therefore has been coming back frequently. Jan's professional background is in marine ecology, to be precise macro-benthic ecology, but he quitted science years ago and now works full-time as a professional guide and expedition leader in the high northern and southern latitudes. Besides guiding on Ortelius, Jan is regularly guiding on sailing vessels such as Noorderlicht.

Arjen Drost - Guide & lecturer



When Arjen arrived in Spitsbergen for the first time in 1999 as a biology student, he fell in love with the Arctic. After three summers of research on Barnacle Geese in Ny Ålesund, Spitsbergen he started guiding in small expedition cruise ships for Oceanwide Expeditions. Here he loves to share his passion for the Polar Regions with others.

Arjen was born in the Netherlands and soon started watching birds. Many hours were spent finding and watching birds in the local neighbourhood and enjoying nature. His choice to start studying biology came to no surprise for anybody. During this study he specialized in ecology, especially the interaction between herbivores and plants.

For ten years Arjen has combined guiding in the Arctic with a full time teacher job at a secondary school in the Netherlands, where he taught biology. Now he gave up his teaching job to become a fulltime expedition guide.

In his spare time Arjen is a keen nature and wildlife photographer, giving photo workshops and lectures and is co-author of several Dutch books on nature photography.

Arjen speaks English, Dutch and German.

Alex Chavanne
Born: Oakland California
Home: Lofoten Islands, Norway



With an academic background in the natural sciences, and nearly a decade of experiencing leading groups through wilderness settings, Alex feels at home outdoors. His work as guide, expedition leader and logistics manager, and his passion for the outdoors has taken him around the world. He has begun living the endless summer, travelling and working from pole to pole. Alex has been a kayak guide in Chilean Patagonia, spent the night on bear watch for scientists in NE Greenland, and through it all has found a fascination in lichen. While also interested in other cryptogams, the ubiquity and color of lichen has fed his addiction for travel and photography. When not nestled in the miniature forests of lichen, he can be found skiing, hiking and paddling at home in the north of Norway.

Marie Brekklus

Marie is Norwegian, born and raised on the west coast of Norway. Always by the ocean or in the mountains growing up, she found her love for the outdoors. So much so that she took her education to be a teacher in “Friluftsliv” (Outdoor living and activities). Fascinated by glaciers, she moved to Svalbard to become an Arctic nature guide in summer of 2012, only to fall in love with the Arctic as so many before her. Now she lives all year round in Longyearbyen.

Her favorite thing to do is expedition skiing, like when she crossed Spitsbergen from north to south by skis, 34 days in a tent and 700km. In winter she works as a snowmobile guide and go skiing on her days off. In summer she does hiking, glacier guiding and expedition cruising in Svalbard and Greenland.



Sandra Petrowitz – Guide & lecturer



From early on, Sandra has been a dedicated naturalist, traveler and photographer. Fueled by curiosity and a deep passion for being out and about, her extensive journeys have led her (and her camera) across the globe. When visiting the polar regions for the first time she immediately fell for the high latitudes' nature and light. So besides stories and photos, she brought home the polar bug. She has been returning frequently to the Arctic and Antarctica ever since.

Holding a degree in journalism, Sandra has a background in working as an editor, free-lance journalist and writer for more than 15 years. An avid nature, wildlife and travel photographer, she has a wide interest in all kinds of nature and wildlife observations. Sandra leads specialized photo trips to the polar regions but also to places like Botswana and Jordan, and has published two books on travel photography. A third is in the making.

Iain Rudkin



A love for travel alongside a passion for mountains, wild places and photography has allowed Iain to fulfil many a childhood dream. Equally at home in his native Scottish mountains as in the polar regions, Iain has been fortunate enough to be able to combine his enthusiasm for the wilderness with a real life job - a privilege not lost on him!

This 'work' has led him to over winter three times in Antarctica, explore and climb unclimbed peaks as well as getting covered head to toe in penguin guano...it's not all glamorous!

Iain has a broad general knowledge of many subjects from polar history and travel through to wildlife and photography so feel free to grab him on board with your questions!



Bill Maclean Smith

Bald, blue-eyed, patriotic but not fanatical, tartan-clad, hairy-chested, yellow wellie and kilt wearing, energised, fun loving Scotsman.

50 years teaching / 36 years Head of Art and Design Ellon Academy,
Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist
50 years experience in Adventure Education

Royal Yachting Association Advanced Powerboat Instructor
Royal Yachting Association Senior Sailing Instructor
Royal Yachting Association Windsurfing Instructor
British Association of Ski Patrollers First Aid Trainer UK and the Alps.
British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor
British Caving Association Cave Leader.

Depute Leader Glenshee Ski Patrol Team – Skis everyday during the winter
Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski Avalanche
Committee

President of Lochinver Highland Games Committee
Crofter – Assynt, North West Highlands

Safety Expert

Oceanwide Expeditions Guide Arctic / Antarctic
Adventure Sports –Windsurfing / Sailing / Powerboating / Skiing / Canoeing
Loves excitement - art and design, mountains and the sea

Lectures

A Taste of Scotland – History of Whaling Arctic – History of Whaling Antarctic
Paintings of the sea

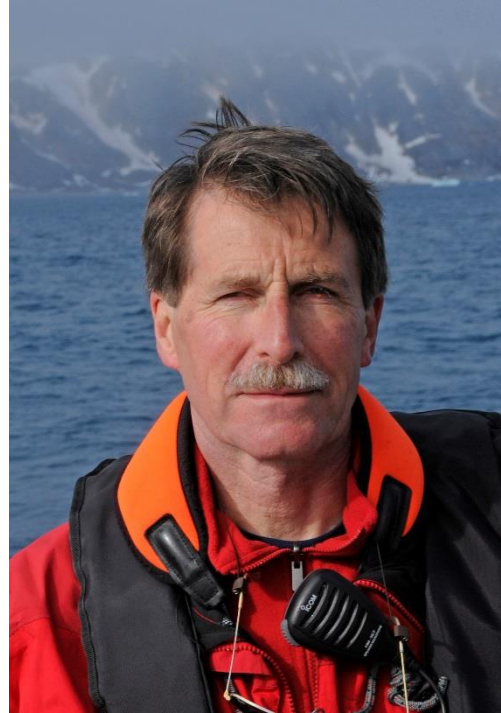
Aad Wever from The Netherlands.

With parents born in the small “Zuiderzee” villages in West-Friesland, the Netherlands it was only natural that an interest in the Dutch whaling history arose with Aad at an early age. In those days it was still politically correct to deal with whaling in the Dutch curriculum...

The first visit to the Arctic was a 10-day visit to the Norwegian island of Jan Mayen. The bleak volcanic island, the snow storms covering the black lava made a lasting impression, as did the journey back to Bodø in Norway aboard *M/V Lance* in gale force 12.

Svalbard followed quickly. Its history, nature, wildlife but above all the splendid light of the Arctic have produced a great fan of this very special part of the world. This year is Aad's 12th season at Svalbard. Aad recently retired from teaching at Saxion University of Applied Science in Enschede, The Netherlands.

During this expedition cruise we hope to turn you into fans of the Arctic!



Ashley Cordingley – Dive Team leader



Ashley has worked for the British Antarctic Survey and the British Government as a Marine Biologist and Scientific diver, surveying and studying the marine environment. He has been diving for 15 years and during that time has dived extensively in remote locations. As a Marine Biologist for BAS, he wintered in Antarctica, diving year round to study the effects of iceberg impacts on the seabed.

When he is not diving, Ashley can normally be found in the mountains Scotland exploring the natural beauty of its rugged landscape. This love for the outdoors has taken him on numerous adventures around the world.

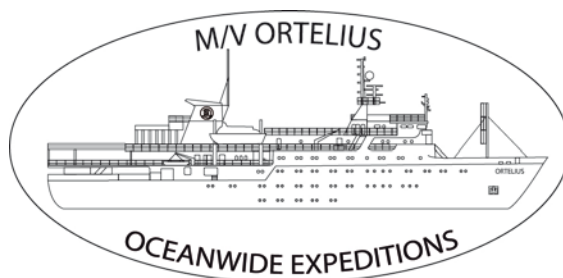
With a particular passion for marine conservation and ecology, Ashley is working towards a PhD in Marine biology, restoring Native Oyster beds in Scotland. The native European oyster was fished out in the mid 1850's and is now being reintroduced to parts of Scotland.

Will Gilbertson – Dive Guide



Will has always been driven towards exploring the outdoors and there is plenty of scope for this in his native Scotland. The underwater world in particular has always fascinated him and he first started diving in 2005 on moving to Aberdeen to study Zoology at University. Since then, he has dived extensively around the coast of Scotland and has been involved in instructing with the Aberdeen University Sub Aqua club and driving small boats to access the many wreck and scenic dives around the Scottish coast. After finding the Scottish waters not quite cold enough, Will travelled to Iceland to dive the hydrothermal chimneys and continental rifts, before joining Oceanwide for a voyage to Antarctica on board Ortelius in 2015 and the Arctic the following year.

Will still lives in Aberdeen and after graduating from University, he spent 2 years researching the ecological effects of invertebrates and microbes in marine sediments for a Masters of Philosophy. After a few years delivering training to offshore personnel in marine search operations, sea survival and helicopter escape, Will returned to a more scientific role; he currently works for a craft brewery as a microbiologist.



North Spitsbergen, Polarbear Special

May 31 – June 7, 2017

Day 1, May 31, Wednesday: Boarding and departure from Longyearbyen

WELCOME ABOARD!

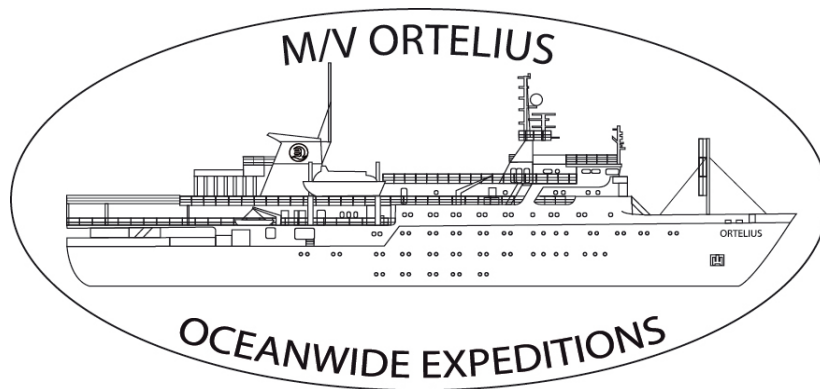
For the arriving passengers: luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage!

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

- ±17.00 Welcome briefing in the lecture room (deck 3, forward). Expedition leader Jan and the hotel manager and will introduce you to life on board the Ortelius.
This will be followed by a mandatory 'Safety at Sea' briefing and abandon ship drill.
- ±18.00 Departure of the Ortelius. Please stay off the bridge during the departure, while we are sailing out of the harbour. It will be announced when the bridge will be open.
- 19.15 Welcome meeting and toast with the Captain in the Bar at deck 6. Here you will meet the expedition team and hear about our plans.
- 20.00 Dinner is served in the dining room (Deck 4 behind reception).

The first part of the evening we will sail through the large Isfjord towards the open sea. Then we head north, along the outer coast of Spitsbergen, heading towards the pack ice. We will stay on the outside of the long and narrow island of Prins Karls Forland, as the passage between this island and Spitsbergen is too shallow. The total distance will be 180 nautical miles (1 nm. is around 1,9 kilometres so about 330 km) and it will take us approximately 16 hours to reach the north-west of Spitsbergen and the pack ice edge. As there is a lot of pack ice up north we have not defined our first destination. We expect to arrive near the pack ice tomorrow, somewhere later in the morning.

Remember: Take your seasickness medication before you feel the movements of the vessel. Walk slowly on the ship and always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship! Stow your belongings well so things do not break because of the motion of the ship



North Spitsbergen, Polarbear Special

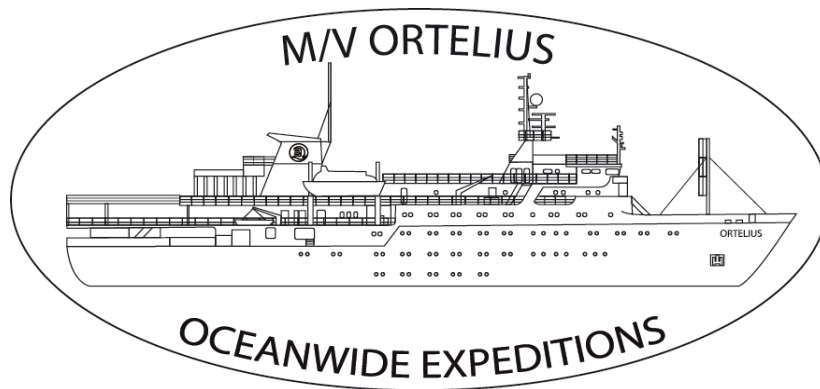
May 31 – June 7, 2017

Day 2, June 1, Thursday: the pack ice

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 07.00 | Wake-up call. |
| 07.30 – 08.30 | Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room (Deck 4) for one hour. |
| 08.30 | Please join the Expedition Team in the Lecture Room (on deck 3) to hear our mandatory Environmental Guidelines, Zodiac Operations briefing and our Polar Bear “Safety in the Field” briefing. After the briefing, we will distribute rubber boots. Take thick socks with you to find the good size. |
| 12.30 | Lunch is served in the Dining Room. (Deck 4, behind Reception). |
| TBA* | Landing or zodiac cruise |
| 18.30 | Recap in the bar |
| 19.00 | Dinner is served in the Dining Room. |

Today we are going to explore the pack ice. We do not have a fixed plan yet where to go, it all depends on the pack ice. We hope to do a landing or zodiac cruise in the afternoon.

The Doctor can be contacted any time during the day (23.00 to 08.00 for emergencies only) in the Hospital on deck 4, via the Bridge, or find a member of the Staff.



North Spitsbergen, Polar Bear Special

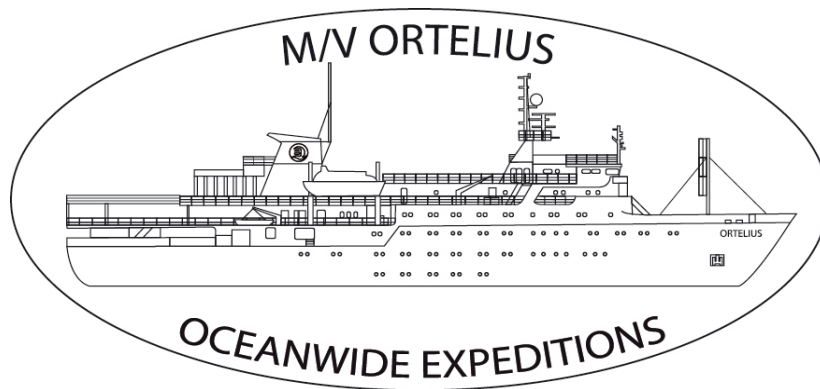
May 31 – June 7, 2017

Day 3, June 2, Friday: the pack-ice.

- 07.30 Wake-up call.
- 08.00-09.00 Breakfast.
- 12.30 Lunch.
- 18.30 Recap in the bar
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the Dining Room.

Today we are going to explore the pack-ice. We did not make any other plans yet. In case we will be able to do a landing, somewhere during the day, we will inform you. Be on the lookout, this is the habitat of the Polar Bear.

The Doctor can be contacted any time during the day (23.00 to 08.00 for emergencies only) in the Hospital on deck 4, via the Bridge, or find a member of the Staff.



North Spitsbergen, Polar Bear Special

May 31 – June 7, 2017

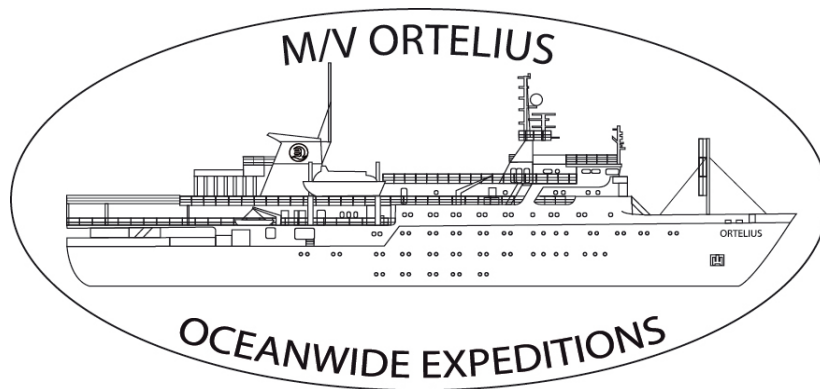
Day 4, June 3, Saturday: the mid-west – Engelskbukta - Fuglehuken

- 07.00 Wake-up call.
- 07.30-08.30 Breakfast.
- 09.00 Landing at Engelskbukta/ Sarstangen
- 12.00 Last zodiac back
- 12.30 Lunch.
- 14.30 Landing at Fuglehuken
- 18.00 Last zodiac back
- 18.30 Recap in the bar
- 19.00 Dinner

During the night we sailed south again, towards the mid-west of Spitsbergen. In the morning, we plan to land at Engelskbukta or Sarstangen. In the afternoon, we might land at Fuglehuken, the northern cape of the large island Prins Karls Forland.

In the evening and night, we sail further south, towards Hornsund/ Bellsund, in the south west of Spitsbergen.

The Doctor can be contacted any time during the day (23.00 to 08.00 for emergencies only) in the Hospital on deck 4, via the Bridge, or find a member of the Staff.



North Spitsbergen, Polar Bear Special

May 31 – June 7, 2017

Day 4, June 3, Saturday: the pack-ice.

07.30 Wake-up call.

08.00-09.00 Breakfast.

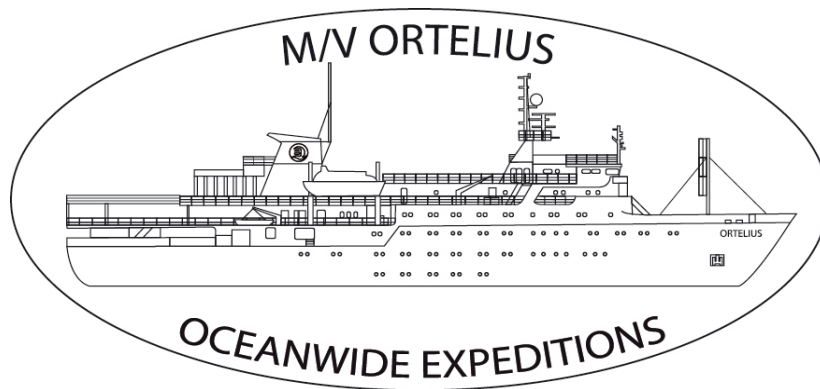
12.30 Lunch.

18.30 Recap in the bar

19.00 Dinner

Today we continue exploring the pack-ice and the fjords in the north west. In case we will be able to do a landing, somewhere during the day, we will inform you. Be on the lookout, this is the habitat of the Polar Bear.

The Doctor can be contacted any time during the day (23.00 to 08.00 for emergencies only) in the Hospital on deck 4, via the Bridge, or find a member of the Staff.



North Spitsbergen, Polar Bear Special

May 31 – June 7, 2017

Day 5, June 4, Sunday: Hornsund

07.30 Wake-up call.

08.00-09.00 Breakfast.

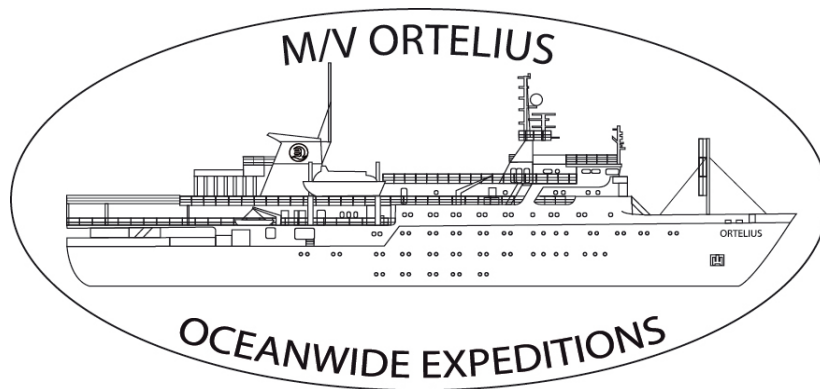
12.30 Lunch.

18.30 Recap in the bar

19.00 Arctic dinner

During the night we sailed south, towards the southwest of Spitsbergen. Today we will explore one of the most wild and icy fjords of the archipelago; Hornsund. We have not planned our activities for today yet, we will decide, depending on the time of arrival and the weather, what we will do in the fjord.

The Doctor can be contacted any time during the day (23.00 to 08.00 for emergencies only) in the Hospital on deck 4, via the Bridge, or find a member of the Staff.



South Spitsbergen, Polar Bear Special

May 31 – June 7, 2017

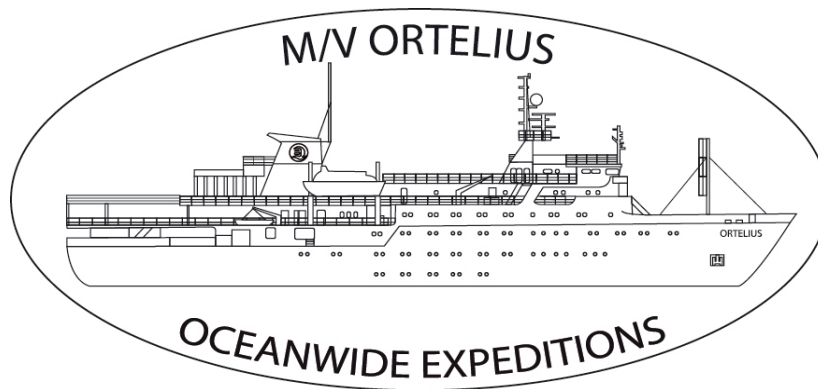
Day 6, June 5, Monday: Hornsund, second day.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 07.00 | Wake-up call. |
| 07.30-08.30 | Breakfast. |
| 09.00 | Landing at Gnalodden\ Sofiakammen or zodiac cruise |
| 11.30 | Last zodiac |
| 12.30 | Lunch. |
| 18.30 | Recap |
| 19.00 | Dinner. |

We have not planned our activities for today completely. We will decide, depending on the weather and the wildlife we might spot from the ship.

In the late afternoon/ evening we will sail to the Bellsund, a large fjord further north.

The Doctor can be contacted any time during the day (23.00 to 08.00 for emergencies only) in the Hospital on deck 4, via the Bridge, or find a member of the Staff.



South Spitsbergen, Polar Bear Special

May 31 – June 7, 2017

Day 7, June 6, Tuesday: Bellsund

07.00	Wake-up call
07.30–08.30	Breakfast
+/-09.00	Landing in the Recherchefjorden near the Recherchebreen
11.30	Last zodiac back
12.00	Lunch
+/-13.30	Possibly landing somewhere in Bellsund. Because of expected strong winds, the landing might be cancelled.

Settlement of your ships account. You will be called deck by deck

Sometime late afternoon we will call you to bring your rubber boots to the lecture room. Do not bring these before the announcement please!

19.30 Dinner.

TBA Farewell meeting in the bar

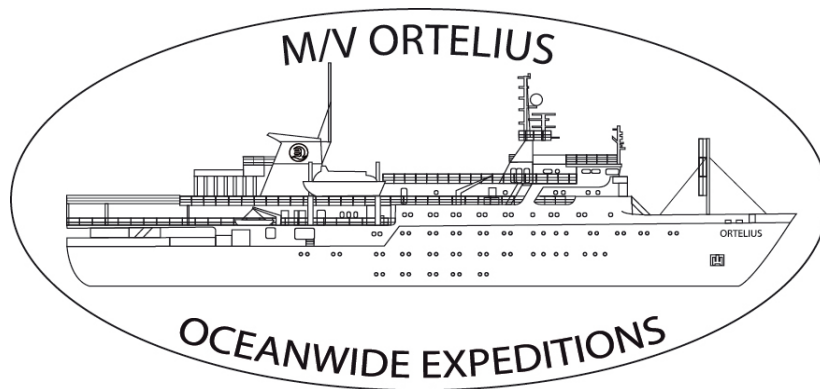
Today will be our last expedition day. In the morning, we will land at in the Recherchefjorden near the large Recherchebreen. Here we walk to the lagoon near the glacier, where often seals or lying on the ice and sometimes bears are seen.

After lunch, we plan one more landing. We have not yet decided where, as fairly strong winds are expected tomorrow.

In the afternoon, after the afternoon landing, your ship's account will be settled. Our hotel manager will ask you to call in deck by deck at the reception for this.

After the farewell dinner, we would like to invite you all for a farewell drink in the bar.

The ship will proceed towards Longyearbyen, where we plan to arrive during the night.



Spitsbergen, Polar Bear Special

May 31 – June 7, 2017

Day 8, June 7, Wednesday: Disembarkation – Farewell.

07.30 Wake-up call.

08.00 Breakfast

Please put your heavy luggage in the corridor near your cabin, at the latest at 08.00. The crew and staff will carry it down to the pier.

Please leave your cabin keys at the reception.

09.00 Time to say goodbye! All passengers leave the ship.

Please check that you take all your luggage from the pier and drop it at the luggage truck. The luggage will be brought to the airport where you can pick it up before your flight. A chartered bus will take you to the parking lot at the Svalbard Butikken (the main shopping centre in Longyearbyen).

11.30 Airport transfer. The bus will depart from Svalbard Butikken to the airport, where you will pick up your luggage from the luggage vehicle. If you are late you must arrange your own taxi!

On behalf of the Captain, Officers, staff and crew, we would like to wish you a safe onward journey. It has been a pleasure having you onboard the M/V Ortelius.