



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Spitsbergen: Polar Bear Special

on board

m/v Ortelius

June 14 – June 21, 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 Ernesto Barria

and his international crew of 52

including

First Officer:	Yury Marin	[Russia]
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:	Veronique Verhoeven	[Belgium]

and

Expedition Leader:	Rinie van Meurs	[The Netherlands]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Arjen Drost	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Ian Stirling	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Szymon Niezabitowski	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Mick Brown	[Ireland]
Expedition Guide:	Baldur Thorvaldsson	[Iceland]
Expedition Guide:	Pete Gwatkin	[Great Britain]
Dive Master:	Henrik Enckell	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	Tanja Bayer	[Germany]
Dive Guide:	Michael Green	[Great Britain]

Day 1 – Wednesday, 14th June 2017

Longyearbyen

GPS position at 1200: 78°14.0' N, 015°37.4' E

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



On this nice 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 Rinie van Meurs, 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 Ernesto Barria 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. After dinner, our Expedition Leader Rinie 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 – two Blue Whales were seen right next to the ship for a while and at a bit of a distance a Humpback Whale was seen. What an exciting first day, and what a start to our voyage!

Day 2 – Thursday, 15th June 2017

Tinayrebukta

GPS position at 1200: 79°09' N, 011°46' E

Wind: calm Weather: cloudy Temperature: 10 °C



Following last night's Blue Whale encounter we had a restful night and we awoke to choppy seas and a change of plans. Instead of sailing between the islands of Danksoya and Amsterdamoya we sailed into Krossfjord and dropped anchor in Tinayrebukta. 30 knots of wind offshore called for a new schedule and that is often the way in the expedition cruise business.

The morning on board passed quickly in preparation for landings. Safety and procedure in zodiac operations and on land (in Polar bear country) must be covered by briefings and this was followed by the distribution of rubber boots.

After lunch the zodiacs were launched and we went ashore on a sandy beach overlooked by the mountains, glaciers and moraines of this beautiful landscape. Three walks were offered; long, medium and short. It was cold but calm and occasionally the sun shone a little and the cloud thinned out. Short hikers followed the shoreline, medium walkers moved some way uphill and inland and the long walkers made their way up through the snowfields and tundra crossed over some ridges and returned via the terminal moraine of the nearby glacier. Some wildflowers were beginning to bloom and several species of birds were seen. King and Common Eider along with Puffins passed by the shore and Arctic terns came close enough for folks to get good photos of courtship behaviour.

Snow buntings sang their lovely musical songs on the high ground, Rock Ptarmigan, still in white winter plumage circled around and Arctic skuas kept a watchful eye on us as we passed through their habitat. Reindeer tracks crisscrossed the snowfields and in the distance we saw small numbers with their calves. An Arctic fox was also seen roaming around inland.

The wind increased a little, the temperature dropped and by six o'clock we were all back on board and ready for refreshments, recap and a briefing about the next day's planned activity. Dinner at seven was followed by a ship's cruise near the front of the Glacier. This brought an end to our first day of adventures in the high Arctic.

Day 3 – Friday, 16th June 2017

Pack Ice

GPS position at 1200: 80°003' N, 012°29,1' E

Wind: NE 2-3 m/s Weather: cloudy Temperature: 3°C



When we first looked out from the ship on Friday morning, we were just a few kilometres offshore from the NW corner of the island of Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. It was overcast with bits of low cloud and fog, cool and windy. But – we were surrounded by sea ice and that meant we might see polar bears! So, undeterred by the weather, and dressed in warm clothing, the bridge and the decks were soon filled with eager binocular-carrying passengers searching the sea ice, not only for bears but also for other arctic treats such as the ringed and bearded seals scattered at low densities throughout the ice-covered areas. For the birders, the possibility of seeing such treasures as Sabine's gull or the ivory gull kept eyeballs and binoculars glued together. But, beyond those specific goals, it was their first opportunity for most to simply observe and experience the fascinating world of arctic pack ice.

We looked, and looked, and then looked some more. No bears were seen in the morning, although some old tracks in the snow served as a tantalizing reminder they were out there ... somewhere. By early afternoon, everyone's eyeballs were beginning to wear out and the first wave of enthusiasm had dimmed a bit. To re-energize everyone, Bill gave a stimulating lecture on the history of arctic whaling, with some emphasis on Scottish involvement in that industry. His lecture also provided

some insight into another aspect of the past in the very waters in which we were sailing. Sadly, as was the case elsewhere around the world, the whalers were terribly efficient in the waters around Svalbard. Consequently, only a tiny fraction remains of the large whale populations that once were resident here.

Then, in the late afternoon, it happened. Rinie spotted a distant slightly yellowy dot moving a bit on the ice as well as several birds standing around on the ice. On the sea ice, the polar bears usually appear as a buttery yellow rather than the white colour we always associate with them. This was exciting, not just because of spotting a bear, but seeing the associated birds on the ice indicated the likelihood they were scavenging on the remains of a seal killed by a bear. Captain Barria skilfully moved the *Ortelius* to about 150 m or so from the bear so that we were able to observe him feeding as well as some additional interesting aspects. The bear was a very large mature male, probably about 15-18 years of age and in very good physical condition. The seal killed was an adult bearded seal, which we were able to confirm from the large size of the skeleton and rib cage and the fact there was a substantial amount of skin left on the ice. The skin of a bearded seal is very thick so, rather than eat it, the bears just shave the fat off with their incisor teeth and swallow it. In contrast, they usually do eat the much thinner skin of a ringed seal along with all of the associated fat. Furthermore, it appeared that the seal had been killed a couple of days or so earlier because the bones had been picked clean by the gulls. Thus, the bear we were watching was likely not the one that killed the seal but rather was just scavenging. Although there were about 25+ glaucous gulls scavenging as well there was no sign of the ivory gulls, which have frequently been seen, in previous years.

A little later, we saw a second adult male though he was a little smaller than the first. Normally, adult males avoid the ships altogether but this male actually approached quite deliberately and came close to the stern where he continued to take in the scene. All the while, his tongue was going in and out of his mouth, suggesting he was trying to make a better assessment of things with his sense of smell – of course, it was only a few minutes before dinner so there might have been some very interesting smells to investigate. Overall, these two bears provided some outstanding viewing along with some interesting insights into their life on the sea ice and a nice way to end our first day in the sea ice.

Day 4 – Saturday, 17th June 2017

Pack Ice

GPS position at 1200: 79°54.7' N, 012°57.6' E

Wind: calm Weather: clear Temperature: 3°C



The morning was beautiful, calm weather and a lot of free space around us. On the horizon we can only spot northwestern part of Spitsbergen and endless sea covered by ice. After breakfast we had zodiac cruise through the ice. After only few minutes on sea we spotted a Minke Whale – the smallest baleen whale, we were extremely lucky, they are really hard to observe because they show up for a moment, dive again and show up again in different place. Minke Whale swam around our zodiacs not further away than 30 meters. What a magnificent mammals.

After 1h30min zodiac cruise and delicious lunch, crew took place at bridge and highest deck to spot for us more Polar Bears. Passengers participate in astonishing lecture about Polar Bears conducted by Ian Stirling the Word famous Polar Bear researcher. On a lecture we absorbed a lot of information about evolution and behaviour of those amazing animals, next after the lecture we heard long awaits voice from speakers about spotted Polar Bear, in 1 minute all passengers were on a

deck 6 with binoculars and cameras. Our long observation interrupt snowfall, on a ship we had almost Christmas atmosphere.

Before dinner we had a recap by Baldur, Arjen and Rinie about Minke Whales, Arctic Terns and spotted Polar Bear, Rinie also give us some more detailed information about future plan for our stunning voyage. At the end of a day we were able to see our first Walrus on a sea ice, but after few minutes he dived at deep-sea water.

Day 5 – Sunday, 18th June 2017

Magdalenafjord

GPS position at 1200: 79°33.6' N, 011°03.7' E

Wind: calm Weather: overcast Temperature: 11°C



Rinie's wake up call at 07.15 alerted us to the fact we only had 15 minutes to get into breakfast (early) in order to be up on deck and looking for wildlife. As Ortelius sailed into Magdalenafjord in the early morning sunshine we were rewarded with some Minke whales escorting the vessel to our anchor position.

After a short briefing in the lounge, zodiac operations were soon underway and the groups split into their two options for the morning landings. The hikers would walk along the shore of Gravenesodden and the birders would head in the opposite direction to the Little Auk colony. Both groups had a wonderful morning, the fast hikers bathed in sunshine as they walked along the snow trail to their high point overlooking the glacier and across to the walrus haul-out on the opposite side of the bay. The hikers also enjoyed hearing some historical information from Arjen and learned something about glaciers from Szymon. The hikers had some quiet time listening to the natural sounds of the arctic before making their way back to the landing area. The birders also had an incredible morning up at the Little Auk colony listening to and observing these amazing birds.

Following a wonderful lunch buffet provided by the hotel staff we were all fed and watered and ready for the afternoon activities. With Ortelius now re-positioned off Amsderdamoya we all enjoyed a sunny afternoon at Smeerenburg. Half the group visited the Walrus haul-out whilst the others listened to Bill and Rinie talk of the old whaling days, blubber cookers, flensing knives, naval battles and hard, cold conditions for the poor souls that used to make their living up at 79 degrees north. At half time each group changed ends for the final passage of the afternoon to play out. With memory cards jam packed we all made our way back to the vessel to see exactly how many pictures we had taken during our afternoon fun in the sun.

The fun didn't stop there; the hotel team had arranged a fabulous arctic BBQ to take place on deck at the back of the ship. Sheltered from the wind and once again bathed in sunshine we all enjoyed the stunning views as we ate and re-hydrated at the free bar. What a day, so much to reflect upon as we sail north once more in the evening light towards the pack ice and the anticipation of another incredible day out on deck in the arctic sunshine.

Day 6 – Monday, 19th June 2017

Pack Ice

GPS position at 1200: 79°55' N, 013°42,6' E

Wind: WNW 3 m/s Weather: clear Temperature: 6°C



It was another beautiful day...the sun shining on a sparkling seascape of ice. Ortelius zigzagging back and forth, east and west, north and south in search of our target species the iconic polar bear. On the bridge, a reassuring commentary from the captain and helmsman....Starboard 15...starboard 15 sir...hard to starboard...hard to starboard sir..thank you...

Ease to 10...ease to 10 sir...thank you...midships...midships sir...thank you...rudder hard to port...rudder hard to port sir...thank you...midships...midship sir...thank you...ease to 5...ease to 5 sir...midships...midships sir...rudder midships...very good....starboard 15...starboard...hard to starboard.

An announcement from the bridge ...‘Walrus’ had everyone crowded on the starboard side as the skillful captain slowly inched Ortelius up to a seemingly oblivious walrus sleeping on an ice-flow. Harp seals were spotted swimming in the larger dark leads in the sea ice.

A constant crashing and grinding as the powerful bow of Ortelius sliced through successive ice flows. Passengers lining the rails with cameras clicking at the hypnotic slow-motion rearing of huge chunks of ice tumbling every now and again to expose polar cod... the target of excited wheeling and diving Kittiwakes who accompanied the vessel all day.

Ian Stirling delivered another thought provoking lecture, this time on 'Polar bears and Climate Change'. He used statistics from various sources to illustrate the problem of dwindling Arctic sea ice in relation to polar bears. He also confirmed that bears were being adversely affected by pollution as they were at the top of the Arctic food chain.

The diving group boarded Zodiacs for an underwater excursion in the afternoon. Reporting back when they returned to the ship that visibility was very poor due to the enormous abundance of Krill in the water.

Day 7 – Tuesday, 20th June 2017

At Sea and Alkhornet

GPS position at 1200: 78°04.5' N, 012°44.0' E

Wind: NNW 2.5 m/s Weather: clear Temperature: 8°C



As various circumstances made it unfeasible to do a morning landing, we decided to see what the sea might offer us instead. The whole morning was spent looking out for the largest creatures of the planet just off Northwest Spitsbergen. And around they were, in the shape of the mighty Blue

Whale. The calm sea and visibility made it very easy to spot them from a distance and they seemed largely indifferent to our presence, simply minding their own business, which in these waters means feeding on krill, a tiny type of crustacean of which these animals are specialised feeders.

The afternoon saw our last landing of this trip, at Alkhornet, beneath a beautiful bird cliff. Kittiwakes and fulmars soared the sky as we landed and went for walks that were from very easy to reasonably challenging. While we did not see the foxes we had hoped to see there, beneath bird cliffs usually being excellent spots to find them, we could see some of their "work" in the shape of half- and fully eaten bird carcasses dotted around. Reindeer were plentiful though and the calves were a particular joy to watch. Reindeer tend to be indifferent to people to an extent but they deserve full respect and that we tried to give them by always giving them an open side into which to run if they would feel threatened by our presence.

It was mixed feelings to return to the ship, knowing that tomorrow would be the end of our trip, but all good things must come to an end and the memories from this adventure of ours will last a lifetime.

Day 7 – Tuesday, 20th June 2017

Longyearbyen

GPS position at 0800: 78°14.0' N, 015°37.4' E

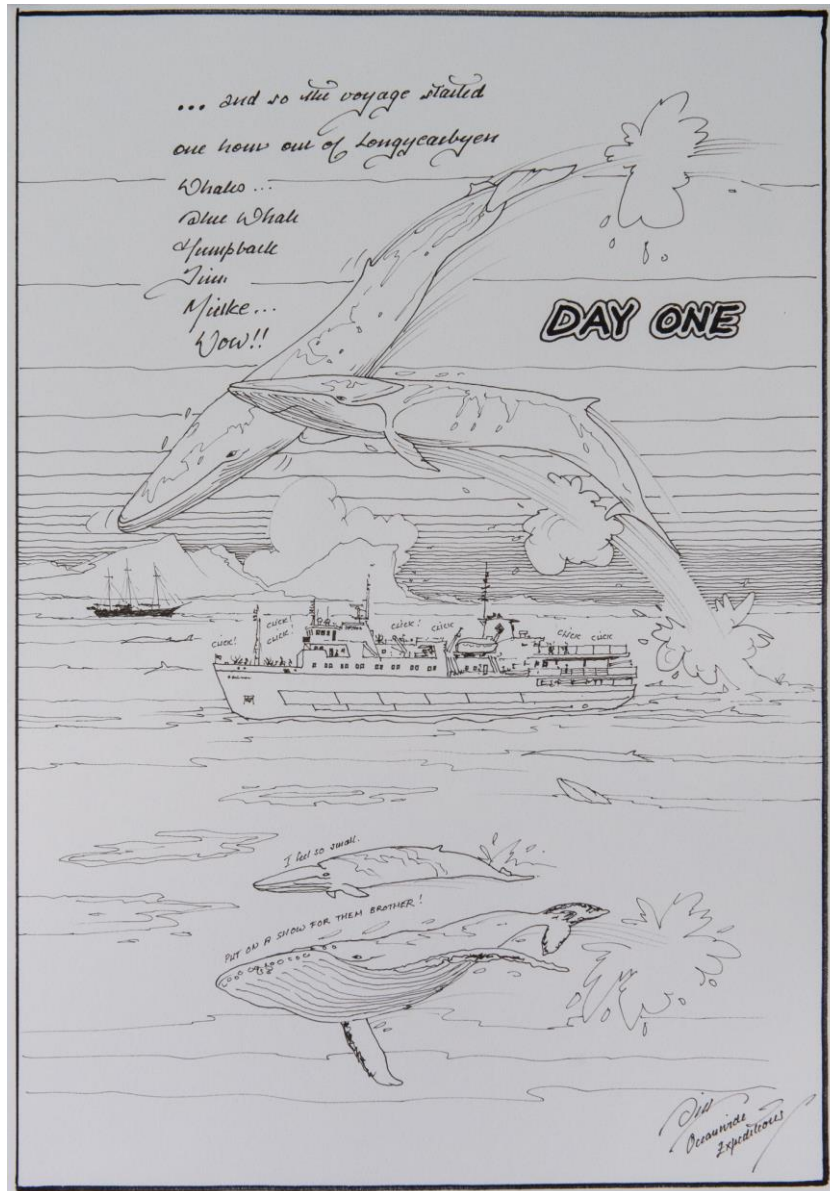
When *Ortelius* arrived at the port of Longyearbyen it was hard to believe that a week had passed since we had left – it seemed like yesterday, yet also a long time ago. The expedition voyage had exceeded all our expectations, and of all our lucky and truly amazing wildlife sightings, the most special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

After our unforgettable and very special trip, which had lead us to the northern parts of the archipelago 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: 698 nautical miles

Furthest North: 80°02.1' N / 012°20.0' E



On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Rinie van Meurs, Hotel Manager Dejan Nikolic, and all their crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



Ortelius 06 Dive Log June 14th to June 21st 2017. **Svalbard Norwegian Arctic.**

Dive Team Leader Henrik Enckell, Dive Guide Tanja Bayer, Dive Guide Michael Green, Dive Team, Jan Deprez, Arjan Gunnink, Marianne Hesters, Peter de Maagt, Theodorus Kartman, Eelco Nijdam, Herma Burgers, Edzo Bergman.

After making long flights to Svalbard we were soon underway. The first evening and morning were filled with mandatory briefings. But as soon as these were complete we started the dive program.

Dive One 15th June 2017. Svalbard Arctic Norway. Tinayre Bukta 79.14.760N 011 40.401E

This was our check dive where the team checked their buoyancy and equipment. There were the usual kit repairs needed after travel but these didn't stop the team having a good dive. A Skate was seen on the bottom along with several nudibranchs in the kelp. A harbour seal played around the dive boats as the team kitted up. Soon the 40 minutes passed and it was time to return to ship. Some of the team enjoyed a trip ashore to admire the beautiful scenery ashore. Now we are ready for the adventure to begin.

Dive Two 17th June 2017. Svalbard Arctic Norway Pack Ice 79 59.709N 012 26.017E.

Today we dive on the ice. The team searched for a separate safe piece of ice to drop in on. We left the ship promptly and cruised the ice until a suitable flat piece was found by the team. Soon we were dropping into the frigid waters by the ice. The water was full of small plankton and algae which was blooming. This made for challenging visibility. However it encouraged the Minke Whale to be around the site. We saw at least three making repeat dives to feed. After the 40 minute dive time had passed we went for a Zodiac cruise along the edge of the pack ice. We encountered more Minke Whale and lots of Gulls feeding around the ice. We boarded the ice and fooled around for a while even jumping for joy for a quick snapshot before returning to the ship.

Dive Three 18th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway Fulgeholmen 79 34.553N 10 55.345E

Early morning, we entered Magdalena Fjord in beautiful light. Soon after breakfast we kitted up and were ready for our dive in good time. We left the ship which was at anchor and motored across to the larger islands near the fjord entrance. The light made for great visibility. On the dive we saw another Skate and lots of little critters in and amongst the Kelp. Minke whales and several seals were playing and feeding on the surface. After the dive some of the team opted to return to the ship, whilst others went ashore for a short walk. The scenery here was spectacular around the Glaciers in the distance we could hear the Little Auks. Plus, a walrus was seen on the beach.

Dive Four 18th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway. Danskegattet Likholmen Rock 79 43.709N 10 54.185E

In the afternoon we kitted up and headed off to a small island. The seabed ranged from 5m to 50m and had a gradual incline. So we entered in 5m of water and headed down to 18m. We saw lots of creatures in amongst the kelp. Plus, lots of microscopic life in the water

column. The site was near to where the hot air balloon team set off for the trip to the North Pole led by Swedish explorer they failed and all were killed. On the beach quite a lot of the launch site is still to be seen. Then we headed to the beach and saw a group of Walrus sunbathing on the sand.

Dive Five 19th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway Pack Ice. 79 53.834N 12 57.227E

Today we made a dive on a piece of ice off the pack ice. It was a good distance from the pack surrounded by clear water. The team entered the water and ventured beneath the edge of the ice. The light was good which made for some interesting colours in the ice. The team experienced a current under the surface which made it fun to stay with the ice. Soon it was time to return to the surface board the Zodiacs and board the ship. Just in time for afternoon tea.

Dive Six 20th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway Sagaskjeret, Alkornet 78 12.8N 13 56.5E

After a morning watching Blue Whales from the ship we prepared to dive on Sagaskjeret a small island in the bay at Alkornet. The site had lots of kelp which came to the surface so we were dropped a little way from the island in 7m of water. The visibility was great with 7 to 8m. However the water was cold at 1 degree. We saw lots of great underwater scenery. Great gullies and passes to swim through. Lots of life on the rocks with anemones and thousands of urchins living on the surface of the rocks. Soon our dive time had passed and we surfaced. We then went ashore to climb up to the ridge to enjoy the beautiful scenery. Passing reindeer on the way. Snow Buntin and Arctic Skua were around on our climb down to the shore where we boarded the Zodiac to return to the ship.





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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

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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.
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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

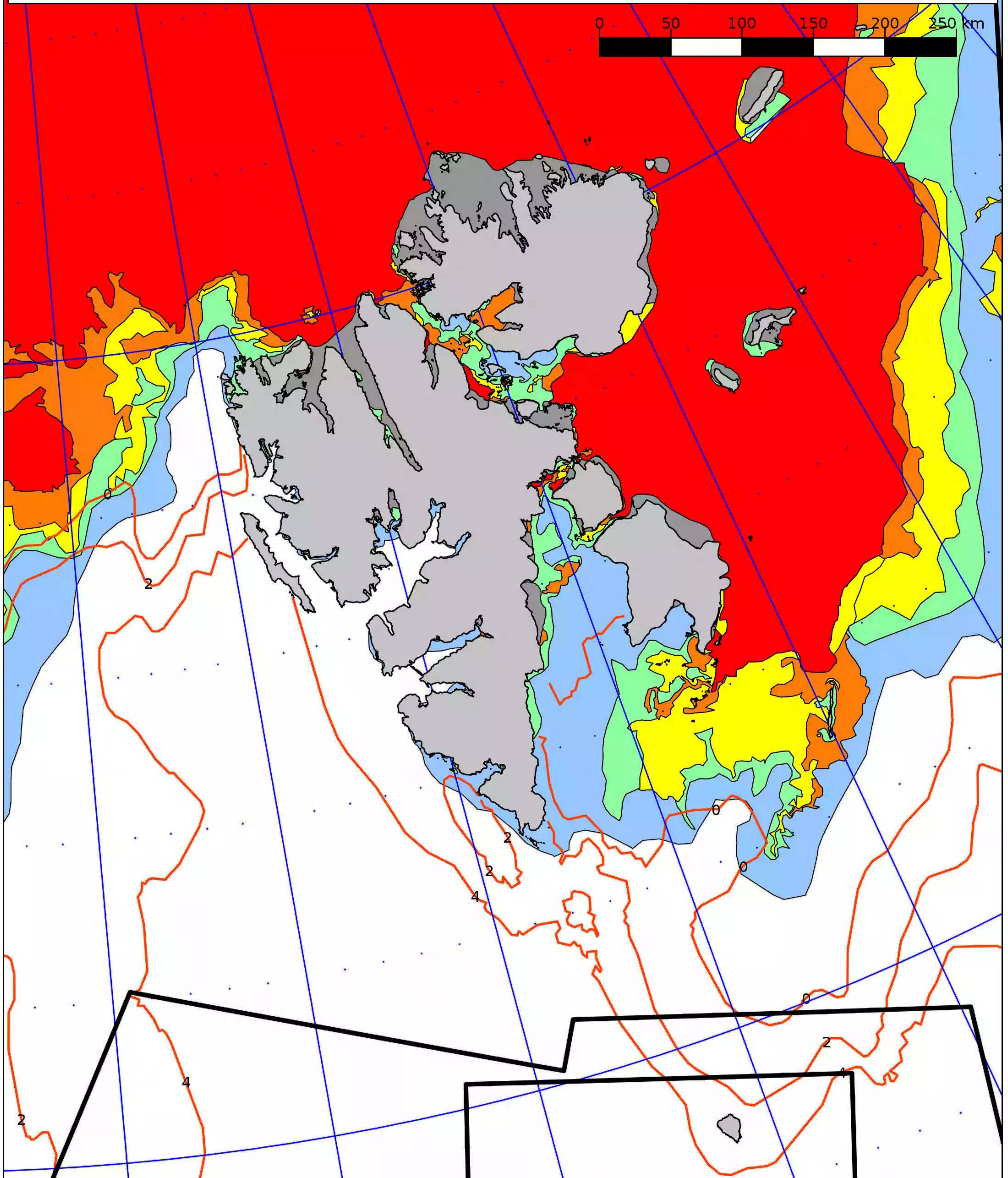
Species list OTL06 14th-21st June 2017

English Name	Scientific	14-jun	15-jun	16-jun	17-jun	18-jun	19-jun	20-jun
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>							
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					x		
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>							
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>							
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>							
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		x			x		x
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	x				x		x
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>							
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>							
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>							
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>							
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>							
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>							
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>							
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>							
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>							
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	x	x			x		x
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>		x			x		
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>							
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>					x		
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>							
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>							
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>		x					
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>					x		
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					x		
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>							
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		x					x
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>							
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>							
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>							

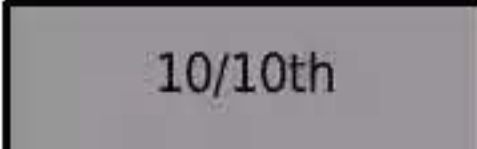

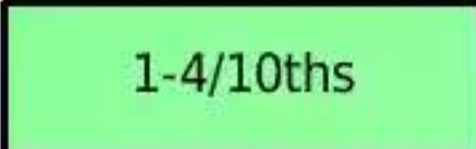
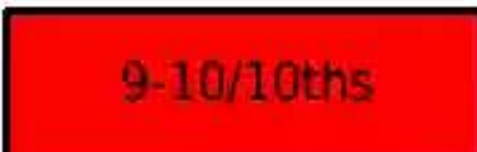
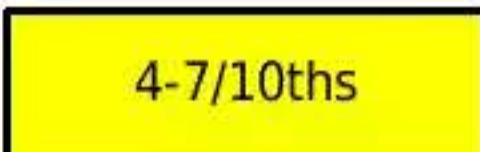
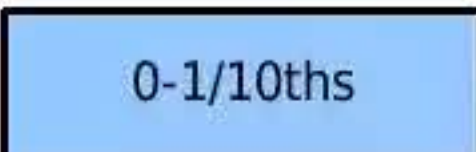
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		x					
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>							
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>			x	x			
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	x			x	x		
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>						x	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>							
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>							
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>							
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>							
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>							
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>							
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>				x			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>							
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	x	x	x	x			x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	x	x	x	x			x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		x	x	x	x		x
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>					x		
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>							
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>							
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>							
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	x	x			x		x
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>							
Lapland longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>							
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>							
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>							
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>							
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>							

MAMMALS

English	Scientific							
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>				x	x	x	x
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			x	x			
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>			x	x		x	
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>			x	x	x		
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>							
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>							
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>			x	x	x	x	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>							
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	x						x
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>							
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	x						
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>							
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>							
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>							
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>							
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>							
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>							
Beluga	<i>Dephinapterus leucas</i>							
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>			x	x			
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		x					
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		x					x
Sibling vole	<i>Microtus rossiaemeridionalis</i>							
Short tailed Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>							





Ice Categories

 10/10th	Fast Ice	 7-9/10ths	Close Drift Ice	 1-4/10ths	Very Open Drift Ice
 9-10/10ths	Very Close Drift Ice	 4-7/10ths	Open Drift Ice	 0-1/10ths	Open Water

Projection: Polar Stereographic, True Scale at 90°N, WGS84 Scale: 3,792,530
 Map Corners:
 UL = 82°59'26.367"N, 4°23'24.258"E UR = 80°15'44.998"N, 44°11'58.041"E
 LR = 72°32'49.391"N, 22°45'57.155"E LL = 73°52'48.561"N, 1°53'51.282"E
 Coastline Data: GSHHS version 2.2.0 (<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/wessel/gshhs/>)



 Sentinel-1
 Radarsat-2  Sea Surface Temperature



- 1 - Longyearbyen**
- 2 - Isfjord (Blue Whales)**
- 3 - Tinayrebukta**
- 4 - Lilliehöökbrean**
- 5 - Pack ice**
- 6 - Magdalenafjord**
- 7 - Smeerenburg (Walrus)**
- 8 - Alkhornet**

Rinie van Meurs Expedition Team Leader



After a formal education in Forestry and Nature Conservation, Rinie started to travel around the world in search of wildlife and in particular birds. However, he was already attracted by the polar regions since he was a boy. After he finished his study, he went in the early eighties on private trips to Iceland and Northern Scandinavia; this was as Arctic as he could afford. However he knew, further north the pack ice in the high Arctic Ocean that was his goal. To explore one day the sea ice, as the early explorers did, that was something he could only dream of.

Until 1989, he managed to find a job on board of the “old” Plancius as a potato peeler for his first season in Spitsbergen. After he came back he knew he was definitely hooked on the high latitudes. Rinie became one of the industry’s first expedition leaders and a pioneer in exploring new landing sites in Spitsbergen and the Antarctic. Only around Spitsbergen he has made more than 200 expedition cruises. He knows Spitsbergen better than his own backyard!

Since '89 then he has logged in his sea man’s book more than 300 expedition cruises including; East- and West Greenland, the Canadian high Arctic, Franz Josef Land, Novaya Zemlya, Geographical North Pole, Antarctica, South Georgia, the Falklands, the sub Antarctic Islands of New Zealand, and many islands along the Atlantic Ridge.

During these years, spending so much time exploring the Arctic and having the opportunity to encounter so many Polar Bears in the ice, he has become absolutely passionate about these magnificent animals. Give him a ship with the right ice class and Rinie will take you to the Polar Bears. He has become an expert in leading Polar Bear trips.

He is also leading every fall Polar Bear trips on the Hudson Bay. He has published four photo books on the Polar Regions of which one was about the Polar Bears of Spitsbergen.

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.



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

Ian Stirling (Guide/naturalist)



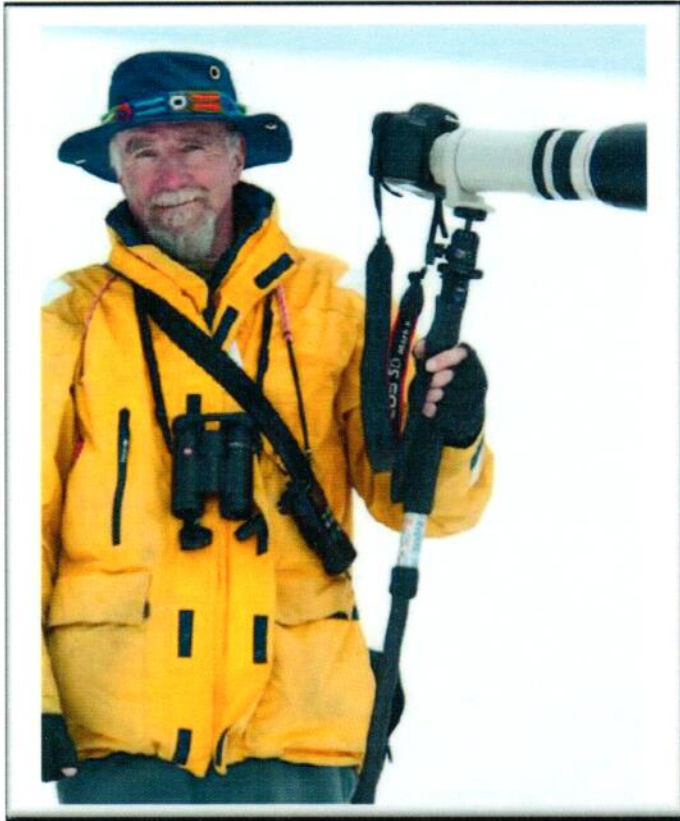
Ian Stirling is an Emeritus Scientist with Environment Canada and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Following a life-long fascination with polar marine mammals, he has carried out research on polar bears and polar seals (Arctic and Antarctic) and trained graduate students in polar marine mammal research for over 50 years. Particular areas of research interest include ecology, behaviour, evolution, relationships between polar bears and seals, the biological importance of polynyas, and the conservation and management of polar marine mammals and ecosystems. For his work, he has won several awards. He participates in a number of national and international committees on polar bears and marine mammals, has authored or co-authored over 300 scientific articles, and written 5 books on bears and their ecology for the general public. This is his twelfth season as an ecotourism guide in Svalbard and Antarctica.

Szymon Niezabitowski, Poland



Szymon was born in 1993 in Cracow, Poland. He studied Biology and Geography at Jagiellonian University in Krakow where he received graduate degree in "Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences". His graduate thesis was about "Volcanic Soils on Iceland". After he finished his studies he worked for the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, where he was a guide and keeper of exotic animals. From the earliest years of his life he is a passionate naturalist with a special interest in the geography and the wildlife of the higher latitudes.

Mick Brown –Guide & Lecturer



A native of Dublin, Mick has lived in Pembrokeshire, West Wales for over forty years. Many years of experience as a guide, naturalist, and also with the RSPCA, have given him a depth of understanding based on hands-on experience, in particular with seals and seabirds. As an educationalist, he has also worked locally with Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks and also at a children's outdoor education centre.

He has travelled widely (and wildly!) specialising for 15 years in the Arctic and

Antarctica. A zodiac driver and lecturer, he views his role as that of an interpreter, 'translating' the natural world and the animal kingdom. Wherever there is a bear or a badger, a penguin or a gannet to be found, whether in the remote Polar regions or on the Pembrokeshire Islands, Mick is equally at home.

An all round naturalist and a photographer since his teens, his passion for the natural world is truly inspiring. He has recently published a book of his early days in Dublin as a street photographer which has achieved high critical acclaim.



Baldur Thorvaldsson – Polar Expedition Guide

Baldur is Icelandic and has been a marine naturalist since gaining an MSc degree in Ecotourism in Scotland in 2012. He grew up by the North Atlantic Ocean but it took three months of volunteering in a landlocked site in Namibia to make him realise how much the sea truly means to him.

Baldur joined the expedition industry in 2015 and has guided on trips in the Antarctic, Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Svalbard, and Greenland as well as his native Iceland. He cannot say which is his favourite, but if pressed hard, he would say South Georgia.

He loves working on whale-watching boats but only found what his true love is when he started working on expedition ships since they present him with the change and challenges that he thrives on. Not one who fancies a future behind a desk, he always looks forward to his next trip offshore or surrounded by ice.

Baldur is a marine naturalist and expedition guide because he finds the smiling faces on the pier at the end of a trip hugely rewarding. As a graduate of Ecotourism, he strongly believes in sustainable, ethical wildlife tourism as a powerful tool in helping people become conservation minded and appreciate wild places and wildlife.

Pete Gwatkin (Guide/Kayaking Guide) UK

Pete lives in Scotland where he works as a trainer/guide/coach within the outdoor education sector. He works for himself as well as for a number of organisations including the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish National Outdoor Training Centre, Scottish Natural Heritage and the University of the Highlands & Islands. Pete holds undergraduate qualifications in Engineering, Youth Work, Community Education in addition to a postgraduate MSc in Outdoor Education. He has attained the highest professional kayaking, climbing and mountaineering qualifications in the UK where he also works as an outdoor activity advisor as well as a First-Aid trainer/assessor.

A flexible working life allows Pete time for seasonal travel to the polar-regions undertaking short contract work for Oceanwide Expeditions more often as a kayaking guide.

Pete started mountain walking, rock climbing and canoeing at an early age, these activities leading him into many adventures around the world. Pete's longest self supported expedition took place over 54 days where he kayaked 1000 miles up the coast of British Columbia to Alaska. A keen naturalist/photographer Pete takes an interest in all wildlife and would describe himself as a generalist.



Henrik Enckell – Dive Team Leader



Henrik is an experienced dive instructor and rebreather instructor trainer.

He was one of the first dive masters to bring tourists diving in Antarctica.

Nationality: Swedish

Henrik has been diving for 25 years and as a Rebreather Instructor Trainer he is teaching all levels of recreational and technical diving up to Advanced Trimix CCR. He runs the IART (**International Association of Rebreather Trainers**) Regional Office for Northern Europe and is a member of the IART Board of Advisors.

Henrik is a keen wreck diver and has been involved in deep wreck expeditions all over the world. Some of the interesting wrecks he has visited are the WW2 disasters *General von Steuben* and *Wilhelm Gustloff* in the Baltic and *HMS Victoria* ("the vertical wreck") at 145 meters/475 feet off the Lebanese coast.

His interest for both the ocean and space has engaged him in projects with the **European Space Agency** (Mars500 project) and the **SeaSpace Exploration and Research Society** (Project Poseidon) among other adventures.

He has also led dive expeditions in the Antarctic and Arctic regions during 15 years and he was one of the first persons to take people diving on expedition vessels in these remote, challenging and many times undived waters.

Henrik holds a M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering and a long experience in software development with project and line management positions in global companies. He has lived and worked in Tokyo, Japan for two years.

He also has a military background having served in peace keeping and peace enforcing missions in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. He is living in Sweden with his wife, his three daughters aged 17, 13 and 12 and his two-year-old son.

Tanja Bayer - Dive Guide



Tanja is at home in Oberursel, which is near Frankfurt / Main in Germany.

She is diving since 1990 and has more than 4200 dives.

In Oberursel she is running her own Diving Center „TaWo Diving“ since 1996. As a Master Instructor and Course Director she teaches Diving and also trains Diving Instructors.

Her „second“ profession is being a Doctor in General Practice, Accident & Emergency and Diving Medicine.

She has been working as a ships doctor since 2009 in Antarctica and since 2015 also in the Arctic with Oceanwide Expeditions.

As a Dive Guide and Diving Expedition Leader she takes divers all around the world.

Asked for her favourite dive sites, she mentions „Planeau Bay“ in Antarctica.

„Cold water diving is really something special and challenging. You have to be experienced and always aware of hypothermia. But it is a great feeling to touch an iceberg or to see all this colorful animals surviving in this harsh regions.“

Michael Green Dive Guide.

Michael spent summers in Robin Hoods Bay with his Grandad who told him tales of the sea and of a land of ice. He also watched Jaques Cousteau who he shares his Birthday with. (Not the same year mind). This gave a love of the sea and an interest in travel and adventure.



Michael worked in finance until last year when he started to study photography to degree level.

Michael took up sport diving in 1990 and has trained to British Sub Aqua Club Open Water Instructor and Advanced Diver. He is also trained in Drager and Inspiration rebreather use.

Michael has dived worldwide and has led trips to Scotland, Chuuk Lagoon and Palau, Bikini Atoll and Cuba and has dived in both polar regions. Michael has been Diving Officer at his local club for the last two years so he is used to overseeing safe diving practices. Although watching him kit up you may wonder!!

Michael met his wife Jane through diving and was her instructor. They celebrate their 20th year of marriage in June with a trip to the Solomon Islands diving of course. If Jane has forgiven him for leaving her at home.

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew of 52

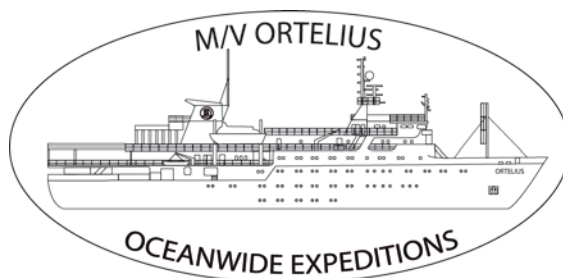
including

First Officer:	Yury Marin	[Russia]
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:	Veronique Verhoeven	[Belgium]

and

Expedition Leader:	Rinie van Meurs	[The Netherlands]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Arjen Drost	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Ian Stirling	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Szymon Niezabitowski	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Mick Brown	[Ireland]
Expedition Guide:	Baldur Thorvaldsson	[Iceland]
Expedition Guide:	Pete Gwatkin	[Great Britain]
Dive Master:	Henrik Enckell	[Sweden]
Dive Guide:	Tanja Bayer	[Germany]
Dive Guide:	Michael Green	[Great Britain]

We welcome you on board!



North Spitsbergen, Polar bear Special

June 14 – 21, 2017

Day 1, June 14, Wednesday: Boarding and departure from Longyearbyen

WELCOME ABOARD!

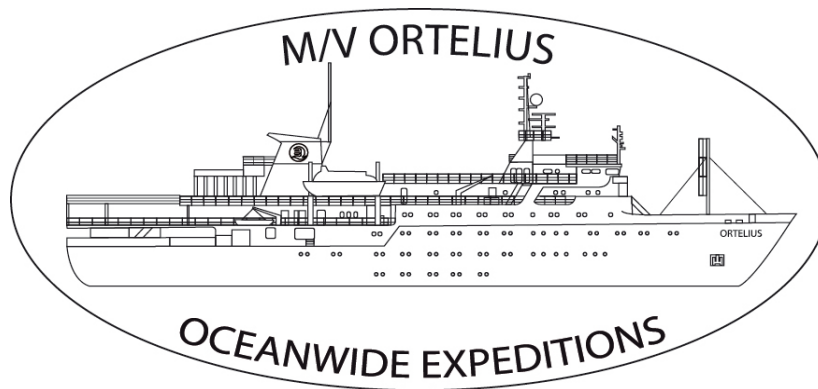
For the arriving passengers: luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage!

**** 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 Rinie and hotel manager Dejan 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.
- 19.00 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.
- 19.30 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. 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.

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



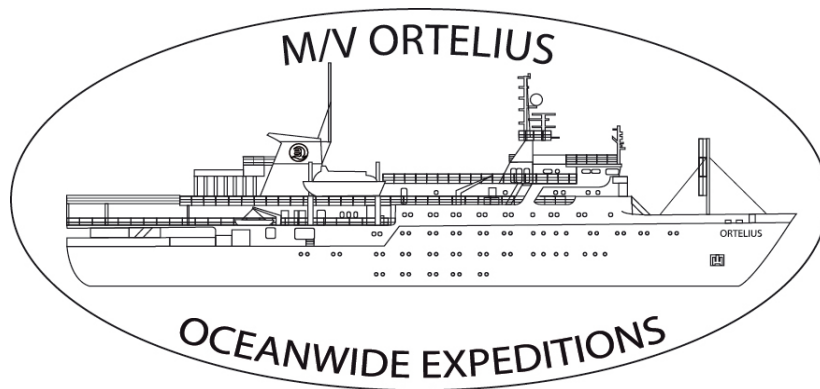
North Spitsbergen, Polar bear Special

June 14 – June 21, 2017

Day 2, June 15, Thursday: Smeerenburgfjord & Sallyhamna

- 07.15 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.
- TBA* After these briefings we will start to hand out the rubber boots in the Lecture Room (on deck 3). Bring your thick socks. Stand by for announcements.
- During this time we will sail through Sorgattet, the narrow passage between Danskoya and the main island of Spitsbergen. This narrow passage will lead us to the very scenic Smeerenburgfjord. Dress warmly, grab your camera’s and head out on deck!
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the Dining Room. (Deck 4, behind Reception).
- TBA* We will explore the little islands and coastline of Sallyhamna by zodiac. Dress warmly as we will be out for some time in the zodiacs. Before this zodiac cruise there will be a meeting in the bar with more details about this activity. Stand by for announcements
- After we are all back on board the captain will sail the ship to the north, towards the pack ice. Here we will spent the night.
- 18.30 Recap in the bar
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the Dining Room.

*TBA: To be announced



North Spitsbergen, Polar bear Special

June 14 – June 21, 2017

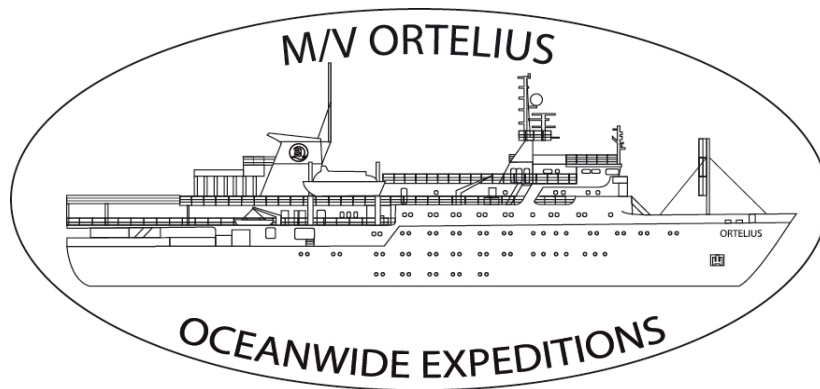
Day 3, June 16, Friday: Pack ice

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 07.45 | Wake-up call. |
| 08.00 – 09.00 | Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room for one hour. |
| 12.30 | Lunch is served in the Dining Room. |
| 18.30 | Recap in the bar. |
| 19.00 | Dinner is served in the Dining Room. |

Today is a true expedition day. We plan to stay in the pack ice the whole day, searching for wildlife. Our course will be determined by the ice and weather. So dress warmly, grab your binoculars and camera's and head outside to enjoy this endless white high arctic scenery.

Depending on weather and wildlife sightings we will make a start with our lecture program, so stand by for announcements. Also wildlife will be announced.

Remember: if we manage to get close to wildlife, please be quiet on the outside decks so we don't disturb the animals.



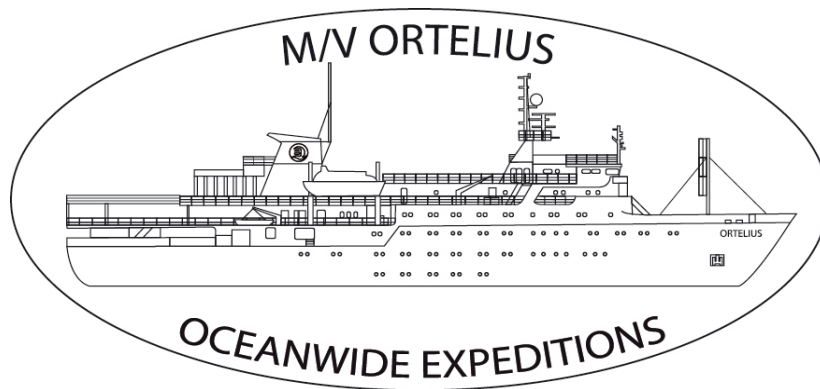
North Spitsbergen, Polar bear Special

June 14 – June 21, 2017

Day 4, June 17, Saturday: Pack ice

- 07.45 Wake-up call.
- 08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room for one hour.
- TBA In the morning we hope to plan a zodiac cruise through the ice. From the zodiac we will have a look at the sea ice and hopefully some birds and seals. Wait for announcements.
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- In the afternoon we continue cruising through the ice with the Ortelius in search for more Polar Bears. Dress warmly again and head outside to enjoy this Arctic landscape.
- 18.30 Recap in the bar.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the Dining Room.

Remember: if we manage to get close to wildlife, please be quiet on the outside decks so we don't disturb the animals.

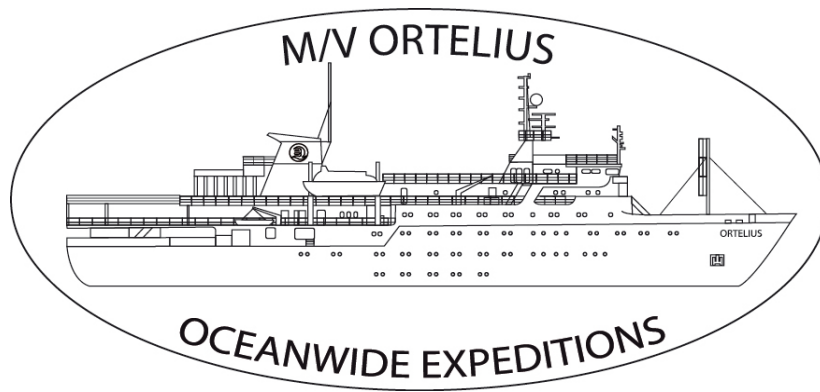


North Spitsbergen, Polar bear Special

June 14 – June 21, 2017

Day 5, June 18, Sunday: Northwest corner

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 07.15 | Wake-up call. |
| 07.30 – 08.30 | Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room for one hour. |
| TBA | In the morning we offer the choice between two activities in Magdalenafjord. One group can stretch their legs a little at a scenic walk along the shores of Gravenesodden towards a glacier. Another group can go a little uphill to have a look at a Little Auk colony. For more information come to the briefing after breakfast. |
| 12.30 | Lunch is served in the Dining Room. |
| TBA | Our afternoon activities are wildlife dependent. If we find Walrus at home on the beach we offer a landing near a Walrus haul out site. If they are not at home, we will look for alternative activities. Stand by for announcements. |
| 18.30 | Recap in the bar. |
| 19.00 | Dinner is served in the Dining Room. |



North Spitsbergen, Polar bear Special

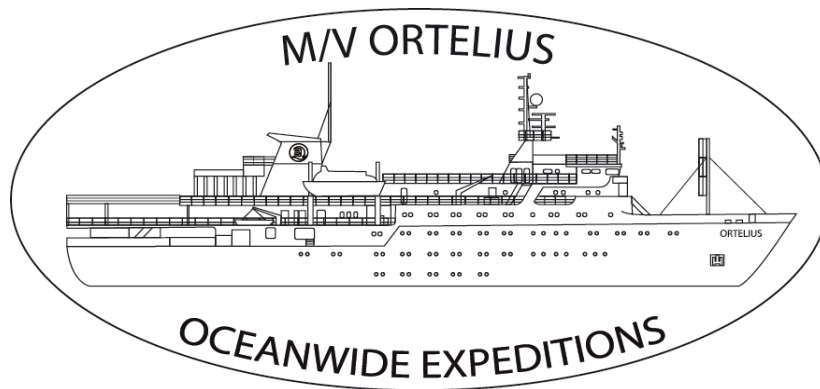
June 14 – June 21, 2017

Day 6, June 19, Monday: Pack ice

- 07.45 Wake-up call.
- 08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room for one hour.
- 12.30 Lunch is served in the Dining Room.
- 18.30 Recap in the bar.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the Dining Room.

Today is another expedition day. We will spend the whole day in the ice looking for Polar Bears. Dress warmly and join us on the outer decks searching for wildlife. Please stand by for announcements for lectures.

Remember: if we manage to get close to wildlife, please be quiet on the outside decks so we don't disturb the animals.

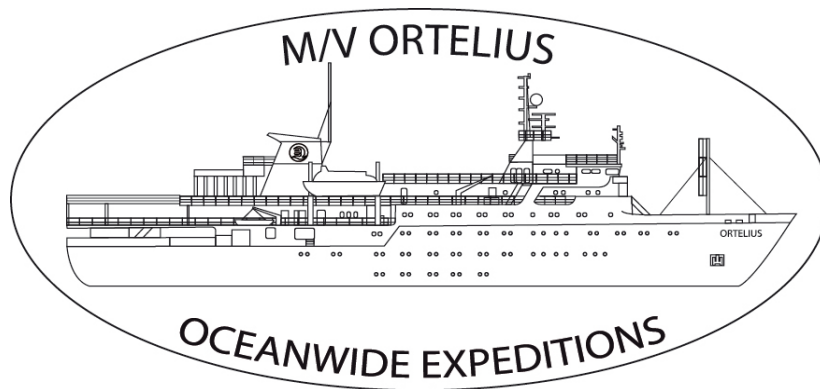


North Spitsbergen, Polar bear Special

June 14 – June 21, 2017

Day 7, June 20, Tuesday: Isfjord

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 07.45 | Wake-up call. |
| 08.00 – 09.00 | Breakfast buffet in the Dining Room for one hour. |
| TBA | If we make good timing overnight we would like to offer a short landing at Tordenskioldbukta to view scattered Arctic wildlife. It is also a breeding site for Barnacle Geese. As usual there will be a briefing before this landing. |
| TBA | After we come back to the ship it is time to settle your ships account. This can be either before or after lunch. Stand by for announcements. |
| 12.30 | Lunch is served in the Dining Room. |
| TBA | In the afternoon we like to offer a landing at Alkhornet. Underneath this birdcliff has very tundra and usually nice Spitsbergen Reindeer. Also there is a chance to see Arctic Fox. Stand by for announcements for the pre-landing briefing. |
| TBA | After this landing we like to collect the rubber boots and life jackets. Please wait until you are called to drop off your boots. |
| 18.30 | Farewell meeting in the bar. |
| 19.00 | Dinner is served in the Dining Room. |



Spitsbergen, Polar Bear Special

May 14 – June 21, 2017

Day 8, June 21, 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). If you stay in Longyearbyen, you have to put your luggage in the bus. This bus will drop you off at your hotel.

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.