



Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

on board

m/v Ortelius

August 21st - August 30th 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 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 50

including

First Officer:	Yury Marin	[Russia]
Second Officer:	Laimonas Choroscia	[Lithuania]
Third Officer:	Luis Oroceo	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuanian]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Djengiz Fejzulai	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Gabor Kiss	[Hungary]
Sous Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Ship's Physician:	Tanya Bayer	[Germany]

and

Expedition Leader:	Michael Ginzburg	[Russia/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Alison Liddle	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Shelli Ogilvy	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovskiy	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Arjen Drost	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Lydia Messingfeld	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Jerry Zao	[China]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Monday 21st August 2017

Embarkation, Longyearbyen

GPS position at 0800: 78°14.1' N, 015°36.6' E

Wind: NNW 3/4 Sea State: 2. Weather: Partly cloudy Air Temp: 14 °C Sea Temp: 8 °C



Since Longyearbyen's foundation as a coal-mining settlement in 1906 by John Munro Longyear, it has been the starting point for many historic and pioneering expeditions. The town has a permanent population of around 3,000 residents but this number increases significantly during the summer with the arrival of thousands a cruise ship tourists ready to explore the archipelago of Svalbard.

Our adventure began with boarding our comfortable floating home for the next ten days – the *M/V Ortelius* at the pier in Longyearbyen. At 16:00 we were met at the gangway by members of the Expedition team who directed us to the ship's reception where we were

checked in and shown to our comfortable cabins.

As soon as we had settled into our comfortable home most of us found themselves either on the outside decks to enjoy the views or in the bar for a coffee or tea.

Soon it was time to gather in the lecture room for several welcome briefings. We were briefed by Second Officer Louis on ship safety and how to prepare for abandon ship procedures, should the worst incident happen on board. Then our Hotel Manager Zsuzannah gave us an overview of *Ortelius*, our home for the next 9 days.

A drill of the general alarm, which was 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 every-

one was present we went out to the lifeboats where it was very windy out on deck as we made our way down Isfjorden. and some of us actually went inside to explore the cosy surroundings!



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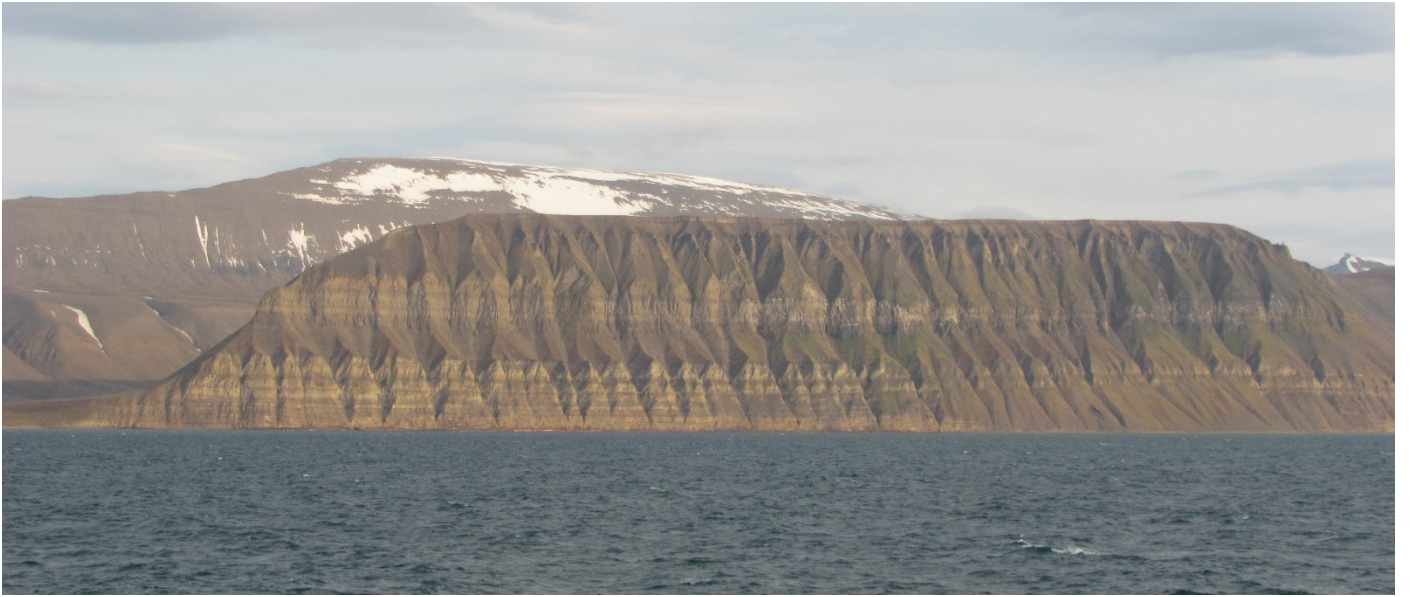


We returned to our cabins briefly before regrouping with Captain Ernesto Barria in the lounge for a welcoming toast of champagne or juice. This was also a chance to meet members of the Expedition team who will be guiding us on shore and keeping us safe during our time around Svalbard. The usual social gathering was brought to an end early though as some whale blows had been spotted ahead of the ship. A great start to our voyage!

We could see a number of blows ahead and to the port side of the ship and they whales were identified as Fin whales, the second largest species of whale in the world.

It was then time to head to the dining room for the first of many delicious meals to be prepared by Gabor and his galley team. Meanwhile, *Ortelius* made her way through Isfjorden towards the open sea. After dinner, there was one final task to complete and that was the collection of rubber boots and life jackets from the lecture room. Staff were on hand to ensure we got the correct size and fit and were ready to go

ashore on Svalbard in the morning.



Day 2 – Tuesday 22nd August 2017

14th Julybukta and Ny Ålesund

GPS position at 0800: 79°05.2' N, 011°29.8' E

Wind: NNW 2. Sea State: 2 Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 6°C



Overnight we had sailed north past Prins Karls Forland and up into Kongsfjorden. As breakfast was being served we anchored facing the 14th Julibukta glacier which was to be the location of our morning excursion, a truly magnificent Arctic landscape surrounded us. Before going ashore, we had to attend a further two briefings; zodiac safety and polar bear safety but it was no time at all till the zodiacs were lowered into the water to take us ashore.

This morning's excursion was split into two halves, with both groups rotating between the two different activities. The first group took a zodiac cruise along the cliff face to see the large colonies of puffins. It was great to be able to see these colourful little birds up close. Meanwhile the other group landed on the beach and took a short walk to the 'hanging gardens' to observe the last of the blooming summer flowers.

This little cliff face is sheltered from the wind and south facing so the plants here grow taller than anywhere else on Svalbard. We also saw several reindeer feeding on the rich tundra vegetation, a cliff face full of nesting Kittiwakes and several Arctic foxes.

Foxes are very often found near seabird cliffs and time the arrival of their pups to coincide with ample feeding on eggs and chicks from the birds. We saw both dark coloured foxes which are typical for this time of year as well as an unusually pale coloured one that stood out well against the green tundra allowing people to view it with ease as it ran across the hill side. As we made our way back along the beach we saw some small, but very beautiful, icebergs which were the result of an earlier glacier carving and had been washed up with the tide. For such a small location 14th Julibukta offers such contrast and variety therefore was the perfect way to start our expedition!





Following lunch, we set out for our afternoon landing at Ny Ålesund. This former coal mining village is now a scientific community operating under the Norwegian Polar Institute research governance and is considered to be the most northern settlement in the world. We were given time to wander around the museum, visit the small souvenir shop, send post cards to loved ones and of course learn a little about the history of Arctic exploration and the attempts to reach the North Pole from Ny Ålesund. Back on-board Shelli held a Mandatory briefing for the kayak program. Those who had pre-booked for this opportunity gathered in the lecture room and learned how the paddling program works on board Ortelius. We then were divided into three groups (1,2,&3) all hoping to have the right conditions in the coming days to get out on the water and explore in the kayaks.

Later that afternoon Michael led a short recap where he also explained what the plan was for tomorrow and Bill encouraged us to look and see and really experience our Arctic voyage to the full. Arjen spoke a little more about the mining history of Ny Ålesund, after which it was time for dinner. For many, the day ended outside on deck as we were treated to some magnificent evening light, with an ever-changing skyline creating some very dramatic reflections in the water we started to make our way north.



Day 3 – Wednesday 23rd August 2017

Phippsøya

GPS position at 0800: 80°02.9' N, 015°12.0' E

Wind: Sea State: Calm Weather: Partly cloudy Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 2°C



The excitement of the day began really early for three passengers who stayed up on the foredeck in excellent weather until 2.30am... they were rewarded for their early morning vigil when Ortelius slid gently past 2 walrus on an ice floe.

After breakfast, everyone lined the bridge and outer decks scanning the huge expanse of drift ice for polar bears as the vessel bumped and crashed through the flow. For most, this was their first experience of a frozen sea and cameras clicked frantically. Bearded seals were spotted lying on the ice and harp seals seen bobbing fast through the narrow leads in the ice.

During the morning Arjen gave a full lecture about Polar bears, explaining about their adaptations to the cold environment of the Arctic and about their breeding cycles and behaviour. It was all the information we needed for our first encounter with the Ice Bears. By the afternoon the Seven Islands were in view and we could see our destination for the day, Phippsøya ahead of us. Suddenly a call came over the PA system that a bear had been spotted. Ali had scouted a band of ice and seen a bear sleeping by an ice ridge. Everyone strained with their binoculars and long lens cameras to see this small creamy dot on the icy horizon. The ship slowly closed the distance



and the male polar bear was observed huddled quite unconcerned, or oblivious to our presence, on a large block of ice on a floe. After several thousand photographs, during which time it occasionally opened its



eyes to watch our progress it finally got up and walked away, then entered the water and swam across a narrow lead between the floes. The light in the early evening was fantastic and we all enjoyed our first Polar bear encounter.

After an early dinner Ortelius approached Phippsøya. Zodiacs were launched and pwe all landed on a beautiful crescent beach curving between two large hills. Three guided walks were arranged...long, intermediate and short. The beach area and adjacent lagoon were strewn with interesting driftwood, some natural timber and some worked logs most of which had arrived there via the tidal currents



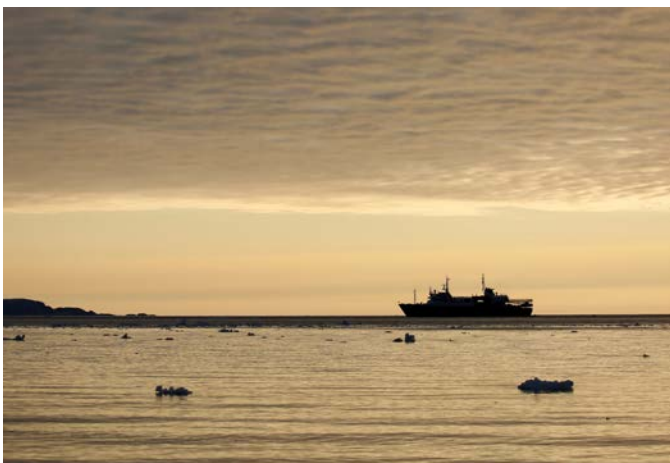
running along the north Russian coast. Intermingled with this debris was a large amount of plastic fishing gear...remains of nets and buoys etc.

The long hikers headed along the edge of a hill and across the low lying stretch of land to try and reach a view point on a small hill. They were lucky enough to see a small group of walrus in the water as they made their way along the island. The snow conditions were a little difficult at times but everyone enjoyed the walk in the lovely evening light.

The groups visited a picturesque 2 bunk small hut on the far shore. This had been beautifully constructed of salvaged wood and was complete with small stove.

Outside, lay the jaw bones of a polar bear. The light during this landing was superb. A blanket of cloud covered the upper sky leaving a substantial gap on the horizon for the intense rays of the low sun to sparkle off the lumps of ice floating in the bay.

'Wonderful'...just wonderful was the reaction of passengers to the landing and to the exciting Oceanwide expedition day.



Day 4 – Thursday 24th August 2017

Expedition Day in the Ice

GPS position at 0800: 80°40.4' N, 019°39.7' E

Wind: Calm Sea State: Ice Weather: Overcast/fog Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 4°C



Overnight the captain had brought the ship towards the ice and when we were woken by Michael we found ourselves in a sea of white. In contrast to recent years there was a lot of ice around Spitsbergen, which we would explore throughout the day. Fields of dense pack ice alternated with patches of open water. Many of us went outside to enjoy this high Arctic scenery and helped the expedition team search for wildlife. Several Bearded Seals were seen hauling out on the ice, many at quite a distance, but sometimes also close to the ship. Harp seals were also regularly spotted, swimming on their backs and popping their heads out of the water to have a look at that big blue ship passing by in their

waters. But the main search was of course for the King of the Arctic: The Polar Bear.

After yesterday's sighting, we were keen to see more of him on the ice. Just before lunch Michael made the announcement we were all waiting for. Arjen had found a bear and we were heading towards it. In the beginning, it was obviously still far away, which gave many of us the possibility to grab a quick bite from the pasta buffet, but soon the Captain parked the ship next to the ice floe where the bear was walking. The bear looked like he needed some lunch too, he wasn't too fat at all.

The bear, a young male, was probably just sent off by his mother after 2 years or so of being looked after by her and he was still struggling to hunt on his own. For bears, this is always the most difficult time in their lives, when all of a sudden mother isn't providing for them anymore. But fortunately, he was in the right location, so most likely he would get better and better at finding seals. The bear was mildly interested in the ship, but also a bit afraid. He kept on looking at us, putting his nose in the air to have a better smell (probably Gabor's Bolognese sauce...), but in the end decided he couldn't eat us, so he moved on again. For us this was the sign to move on as well as we didn't want to stalk the bear, he seemed to need all the energy he had for survival.



It was very noticeable that it was getting late in summer as the sun never really got far above the horizon. This meant that the whole day the light was really nice and warm. While in the morning there were still quite a few clouds in the sky, during the day it cleared and we could enjoy this late summer Arctic light even more. The afternoon was spent searching further for Arctic wildlife and the captain twice tried to bring the ship closer to Bearded Seals on the ice, but they are always very alert (for a good reason), so both times they slipped into the water.

At recap Michael explained us the plans for the following days. Due to heavy ice and dense fog reported by the other Oceanwide ship, the Plancius, who was further east, it was decided to not go to Kvitøya, but go back through Hinlopen Strait. This would offer us a better

chance at having good landings and wildlife opportunities. After this Arjen showed some ice charts from the past year to show the strange ice situation this year and in the past year and put it in a global and long year context.

After dinner, we were called out again as several Fin Whales were seen. The light had got even better as the sun was very low over the horizon. It was nice to see these giants again with the spectacular backdrop of the Nordaustlandet scenery.

After this, some of us stayed outside to enjoy the late evening light a bit longer, while others had a drink in the bar, had a look at their pictures or went to bed. What a spectacular day in the high Arctic it had been again!



Day 5 – Friday 25th August 2017

Lågøya and Kinnvika

GPS position at 0800: 80°22.2' N, 018°08.1' E

Wind: SSE 4 Sea State: 2 Weather: Partly cloudy. Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 2°C



Once again, we woke up to a bright and sunny day. After colleagues on the Plancius had informed us that Kvitøya was engulfed by fog and ice yesterday, we had set our course towards the Hinlopen Strait and travelled back southwest. Shortly after breakfast we arrived by the island of Lågøya where we planned to go ashore to see the walrus and try to catch a glimpse of the rare Sabine's gull. At the shore, we were already greeted by a couple of walrus swimming in the water curiously glancing over at us and the passing zodiacs. A number of Arctic terns ornamented the blue skies.

Three hiking groups were formed and walked along the rocky beach alongside a lagoon, which was covered in seaweed and had lots of Purple sandpipers feeding amongst the weed. Our goal was to reach the walrus haul out on the northern tip of the island, Purchasneset, a nature reserve named after Samuel Purchas (1577-1626), an English compiler of works on travel and discovery.

Once ashore we were really lucky to be able to observe not on Sabine's gull but a small group of them near the shore, a rarely seen bird in Svalbard.

On top of a small ridge at the side of the lagoon we came across some patches with bigger rocks, old graves, most likely those of European whalers from the 17th and 18th century. We then formed a single file between two guides to slowly approach to the walrus haul-out at Purchasneset. We silently got a bit closer and watched around 50 walruses huddling together on the beach, listening to their occasional grunting sounds. All of the animal we were seeing were males as the females and their calves are out on the ice floes to the north and east of Svalbard at this time of year.





After this wonderful calm, landing we returned to the Ortelius for lunch and continued our journey further south. At 3 pm we were invited to the lounge to listen to Bill's energetic talk on whaling history. He tells a good story and really brought to life the slaughter of the whales and the hardships faced by the whalers themselves. Our navigation took a little longer than expected so after discussions between the Captain, Expedition team and the catering department it was decided to serve an early dinner at 6 pm to allow us to go ashore after dinner once again. By the time we had finished eating we were anchored off Kinnvika in the Murchi-

sonfjord on the western side of Nordaustland and the Expedition team were already making their way ashore to scout for polar bears. There is an old abandoned research station with several buildings, which was erected by Finland and Sweden in 1957/58 to observe geophysical phenomena in the Arctic. Since the buildings are still in good condition, they can still be used by scientists who visit this region, with the last big research expedition taking place in 2007/08.

As usual we split into three groups with different hiking options for the evening. Ali and Shelli took the long hikers up to the peak above the bay and enjoyed fabulous views over the bay and inland to the ice cap of Nordaustlandet. We hiked through the vast polar desert landscape in the golden evening sun looking onto the rocky coastal plains where a number of reindeer were grazing. Taking a closer look at this seemingly empty polar desert, we found many different plants hidden between the rocks, the Svalbard poppy as well as the small green leaves of saxifrages past their blooming season.



It was a beautiful evening and despite the late hour we were all reluctant to return to the ship as the evening light was perfect but by around 10 pm we returned to the ship, ready to sail further down the Hinlopenstretet.



Day 5 – SEA KAYAK

Lågøya / Purchasneset

GPS position at 0800: 80°22.2' N, 018°08.1' E

Wind: E 1 Sea State: 2 Weather: Partly cloudy. Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 2°C



We woke up to clear skies and calm water. After the previous days at sea in the ice the kayakers were ready to get out on the water. We met with Expedition guide Shelli in the morning to outfit into the kayaks, adjusting rudder pedals and get kayaks assigned as we would be getting into the boats from the zodiac whilst on the water. This was a new experience for all of us, aside from the guide and our safety driver. Conditions at the ship were a bit wavy but with a few minutes of zodiac ride we found calm water near shore and the general landing site.

The main feature of the landing site was a large walrus haul out, as well as a rich nesting site for many birds including the Sabine's gull. As we neared location several walrus were spotted in the water and Shelli gave advice as to how we would best safely view them in the kayaks. Everyone loaded into the kayaks quite easily and once we were all on the water we were given some advice on paddling technique, and practiced how to "raft up" in the case of overly curious wildlife. We set off in route around the coast. A few icebergs made for the first photo opportunity, and although they were grounded we were advised to keep our distance in the case they broke apart. Several walrus were sighted swimming towards us and we rafted up, gently drifting in the current.



The walrus gave us only a slight look of indifference and continued on their swim. Likely in pursuit of a

morning snack, however we felt humbled by their size and presence being so close to the water. We paddled along the rocky shoreline with a few Sabine's gull, arctic tern, and kittiwakes overhead. Nearing the sight of the main haul out, we quieted our voices and headed a bit further out from the coastline to not stress the walrus, as one of the hiking groups were also heading down to have a view. It was an all-encompassing experience to have the sights, sounds and smells of the haul-out from the kayaks. After another half hour of paddling we headed into the shore to meet up with Expedition Leader Michael and have the chance to see the walrus from land. Leaving Shelli and our safety driver on the beach we tromped off with our bigger cameras and bigger smiles, happy to have had the peaceful experience out in the kayaks on such a fine arctic morning.



Day 6 – Saturday 26th August 2017

Torellneset and Vibebukta

GPS position at 0800: 79°22.3' N, 020°04.1' E

Wind: E 1 Sea State: Smooth 2 Weather: Fair Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 3°C



Overnight we had sailed south through the Hinlopenstretet, passing the west coast of Nordaustland which is the second largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. Nordaustland contrasts dramatically with landscapes elsewhere in Spitsbergen as around 80% of it is comprised of icecaps and glaciers, with the Vestfonna and Austfonna ice caps totalling 8,450sq km. Once again, we were greeted by bright sunshine as we dropped anchor in front of Torellneset which was to be our morning landing site.

First away were the long hikers, aiming for a distant ridge in a hope to get a better a view of the Mariebreen glacier, they were closely

followed by the medium group and lastly the keen photographers and gentle walkers. We meandered across the wide-open landscape, looking for any flora or fauna that might survive the harsh and barren environment of a 'polar desert'. We took time to stop, listen and simply enjoy the sights and sounds from our vantage points, something many of us find hard to do in our busy lifestyles back home. Each group also took turns to approach the two walrus herds on the beach that, like us, were basking in the glorious sunshine.

The herd were displaying classic thigmotaxis behaviour (bodies close in contact) which is distinctive of walrus haul outs, they do this to help conserve heat. A wide range of ages seemed to be present from the old scarred heavy tusked to the young short tusked in this all male gathering. Others were in the shallow water scratching and rolling and a few curious individual swam right along the shoreline to our group to take a better look at us. After a beautiful morning at Torellneset we made our way back to the Ortelius where a delicious lunch was waiting for us.



The plan for this afternoon was to land at Vibebukta but as we approached we were greeted by a sea of glistening icebergs and several herds of charismatic walrus that seemed intent on putting on quite a show for us by playing around the bow of our boat, so a decision was quickly made to abort the landing in favour of a zodiac cruise. This decision was met with enthusiasm by the expedition staff and passengers alike so we quickly dressed accordingly, with sunglasses in abundance and boarded the zodiacs. The area in front of Vibebukta was filled with chunks of ice ranging from fist sized through to bergs the size of multistory tower blocks. This icy landscape was the result of a warm summer that had in turn prompted a series of mass carvings from the Bråsvellbreen cliff face. As always in good sunlight, the kaleidoscope of blues in the ice did not fail to astound, coupled with a myriad of different shapes and sizes, it was undeniably a visual smorgasbord for the lover of ice! As we cruised amongst the ice we spotted a few walruses, some enjoying the sun whilst resting on an ice berg whilst others played in the water. On returning to the ship



it seemed agreed by all that this afternoon was one of the highlights of the trip thus far, only to prove that flexibility is key to a successful expedition! During dinner, the Ortelius started to cruise the ice cliffs of Bråsvellbreen, which along with the adjacent Austfonna makes up the largest ice cap and glacial system outside of Antarctica and Greenland. The ice cliff is 170km in length making it the longest in the Northern Hemisphere and we could not have

wished for more glorious weather in which to enjoy it. After devouring another sumptuous meal, we were encouraged to wrap up warmly and head outside to marvel at this natural spectacle. We spent the next couple of hours slowly making our way along the ice cliff, giving us plenty of time to appreciate its sheer size and splendour. We watched as huge quantities of melt water cascaded from the glacier in a series of grand waterfalls-truly spectacular. Drenched in the most perfect evening light, the glacier almost seemed to change colour before our eyes as we gazed in total wonderment. Just as we thought the evening could get no better, Zsuzanna announced that they would serve hot chocolate and Kuala on the top deck to warm us up, what better way to finish a truly memorable expedition day!



Day 6 – SEA KAYAK

Vibebukta

GPS position at 0800: 79°22.3' N, 020°20.148' E

Wind: E 1 Sea State: Smooth 2 Weather: Fair Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 3°C

The afternoon was a kayaker's dream. Glass calm water, a gentle sea swell, icebergs and walrus to the edge of the horizon. Kayak Group 2 gathered, thrilled at the chance to experience such an afternoon. We launched the kayaks in tandem with the cruising zodiacs and were off and away. We didn't have to transit far from the ship and within moments of loading in the zodiac we were quickly in our kayaks and paddling. The day was warm and with the abundance of ice around we were again advised to stay away from "the BIG ones". The rolling swell shifted the mass of each berg revealing still only part of the physique of the ice. We could from a distance detect walrus hauled out on several bergs. Distinguished not only from sight, but also from their bellows and grumbles to each other. It was the sort of magic quiet-loud that only the polar regions can produce. The ice popping, water shifting, and wildlife poetry.



Making a big wide loop around a band of brash ice and towards the ship we continued to paddle in the afternoon light. In the distance, the mighty Brasvellbreen glacier shimmered, beaconing us closer. However, timekeeping is obligatory, and we were summoned back to the ship. It hardly felt like two hours of paddling but indeed we had profited the maximum of the excursion time. With wide grins and sun kissed cheeks we headed back onboard to share our stories of the afternoon.



Day 7 – Sunday 27th August 2017

Sundneset and Kapp Lee

GPS position at 0800: 78°11.4' N, 021°07.6' E

Wind: SW 5 Sea State: 2 slight Weather: Partly cloudy. Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 4°C



In the early morning Ortelius sailed into the Freemansund channel between Barentsøya and Edgeøya. It was another beautiful morning with sunshine and very little wind.

Before breakfast we sailed past a place known as Kapp Waldburg, where there are some small canyons which are home to large colonies of Kittiwakes. It is often an area where Polar bears are found during the summer and sure enough we had the first long-range bear sighting of the day. The bear had actually been swimming and emerged from the sea and moved quickly up the hillside. The speed with which the bear was able to travel over rough ground was astonishing, even to experienced guides and was a good reminder about the danger of coming across bears on shore. This was not our planned landing for the morning so we continued across the sound as the guides had spotted two other white dots on the opposite hillside.

As we neared the coast we could see one bear sleeping on the grassy slope and another higher up on the ridge. At this time of year any bears stranded on islands like this are likely to be hungry as they can't feed on their preferred food of seals, which are only found on the pack ice. One of the bears got up and appeared to be grazing, eating vegetation just to fill its stomach a little. We would not be landing here! The ship then motored further along the coast and closed in towards the north Freemansund shore at a location known as Sundneset where we hoped to spend the morning. As we approached the anchorage the guides were scouting the shore from the ship and another bear was sighted high above a band of cliffs. It was sleeping in the shelter of the rocks and too close to the landing site so once again a safe landing here would not be possible. Those passengers with long lens cameras zoomed in for interesting shots of it nestling in the rocks.

So, the Ortelius proceeded west to try the landing site we had hoped to go to in the afternoon and on the way over we had an incredible encounter with a bear swimming close to the ship in the 4 knot fast flowing channel. This was the fifth bear of the morning. By this time the wind had increased as we came out of the relative shelter of the sound and with 28 knots blowing onto the landing site the Captain and Michael decided to set sail across Storfjorden to see what the afternoon would bring.

In the meantime, Bill delivered a very well received Looking - Seeing - Thinking lecture 'The meaning of the sea in paintings' covering a wide variety of sea paintings from the Renaissance to the 20th century.

This was a thought-provoking presentation which gave detailed explanations of the use of visual renderings of the sea to communicate a wide range of emotion. It was a very well received lecture and enjoyed by everyone who attended.

12.30 lunch as usual but then, towards the end of service, at the coffee stage, a new cry came over the PA system...Whales!

Everyone then ran for cameras and made their way to the fore-deck. Three fin whales had been spotted...2 in the far distance and one, quite close to the ship. A fourth appeared even nearer just below the bow.





These whale sightings continued and the 'whale lecture' was postponed for a while...why talk about it in the lounge when you can see the real thing outside. In amongst the Fin whales were some of the smaller Minke whales, all feeding on fish and krill found in the oceans at this time of year. Finally, during the afternoon staff member delivered a series of short lectures. Arjen spoke about whale identification, how to tell a Fin whale from a Humpback, Ali talked about Reindeer and Sara gave a comprehensive talk about Walrus. Just as she was getting towards the end Ali interrupted her to say that we had whale soup ahead of the

ship....

It was something totally unusual, something stunning...as Michael reported a line of whale spouts extending across the horizon at 10 miles range. Blows appeared everywhere as gradually Ortelius approached. Fin whales, more Fin whales, Humpbacks, more Humpbacks and excited groups of White beaked dolphins darted across the ocean. The sight was astonishing. We travelled for over 2 hours through the feeding area and although the weather deteriorated during the afternoon the sight was still amazing to see.

By early evening we had left the whales behind and so gathered in the lounge for re-cap where Michael outline plans for tomorrow, Sasha told us the tale of the friendly Polar bear that made its home in Pyramiden for the winter and Arjen screened the short movie he had made during our time in the ice with Polar bears. We have been very lucky on this voyage so far.

Looking...seeing...thinking...this was totally memorable experience for all passengers and crew.

Days like this answer the question 'Why travel with Oceanwide Expeditions?'



Day 8 – Monday 28th August 2017

Burgerbukta and Gåshamna, Hornsund

GPS position at 0800: 77°04.0' N, 015°50.7' E

Wind: S 2 Sea State: 1 Weather: Rain/fog. Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 4°C



And then our luck with the weather ran out... When we woke up today all we could see outside was grey and water. It was foggy and when the fog lifted it started to rain. And it never really stopped during the whole day.

However, this wasn't going to stop us! Overnight the captain had brought us to Hornsund, the first larger fjord on the southwest coast of Spitsbergen.

Hornsund is one of the most spectacular areas of Spitsbergen. Named by Jonas Poole, an English whaler in the 1600's after his crew returned to the ship bearing a deer's horn, it is a place of deep, high

sided fjords, active glacier fronts and crenellated ridgelines. King amongst which is the mighty Hornsund-tind, third highest peak on Spitsbergen and a sprawling mass of towers and buttresses.

After breakfast half of us got dressed in waterproof clothes and got into the zodiac for a cruise towards the Paierlbreen in Burgerbukta, Hornsund. Hornsund is known for its steep mountains and dramatic scenery and the low clouds added to the drama of this landscape. We started our cruise along the steep sides of the bay and stopped regularly at the many waterfalls coming down the cliffs. Really impressive and a nice sight. At the end of the bay the glacier front was waiting for us. We had already heard or seen several smaller calvings, but what happened next wasn't really expected. Half of the glacier front collapsed, huge icebergs appeared from underneath the glacier and in the end a bit the size of a small apartment block slowly broke off and started to turn and eventually collapsed as well. All this was seen from the zodiacs (and also by some of the people who stayed on the ship) from a safe distance, even though we did see and feel the waves that were caused by the ice. The second run, with the other half of the group was even wetter as the first. But even there the mood onboard was good and most people enjoyed the spectacular scenery of Hornsund.



Back on the ship it was time to get dry and to warm up and have lunch. Most of our clothes weren't even

dry again when Michael called us out again for a landing in Gåshamna on the southern side of Hornsund. Here it was wet again, but this time we could go for a walk to keep us warm. A stop was made at some remains of blubber ovens from the whaling in the 17th century and then we split up in different groups. No long hike today as the mountains that could be climbed were all hidden in clouds. But also on the lower plains there was enough to see: some flowers, remains of Russian Pomor hunters and of course still this spectacular (all be it wet) scenery of Hornsund. The highlight came towards the end when a Humpback whale swam along the shore, giving a good show for all that were still ashore.



Back on the ship it was time to get dry again and come to the bar for our daily briefing and recap. Special guest this time was Zsuzsanna, our Hotel Manager, who had to tell us about questionnaires, settlement of

bar bills and disembarkation. However, before that we still had another exciting day of landings ahead of us, with even the possibility of a swim... After this Lydia told us some facts about the Kittiwakes we had seen during the trip and Michael came with the best news of the day: the BBQ was inside (no reason to get wet one more time today) and the drinks were for free! So, we all headed towards the dining room to enjoy this special Arctic meal.



Day 8 – SEA KAYAK

Burgerbukta

GPS position at 0800: 77°04.0' N, 015°50.7' E

Wind: S 2 Sea State: 1 Weather: Rain/fog. Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 4°C



A beautiful drizzly glaucous morning mist wrapped around the hills and peaks of Burgerbukta. The ship navigated into the fjord and we prepared for a morning of paddling. Dressing up warmly in the kayak gear, hoods and gloves on we departed the warm ship to load up in the zodiacs and then the kayaks. It was Group #3's turn in the boats and we were quick to proceed with the activity as we had prepared everything the day before. However due to yesterday's wind never went out. This morning, hardly a ripple was on the water aside from zodiac wake. We loaded not far from the ship on the eastern side of the fjord away from

other traffic and proceeded to paddle towards the large glacier Paierlbreen. We first met a lovely little water fall and several small bergy bits to entertain our camera lenses and our spirits. As we paddled closer towards the glacier we could see massive chunks of ice heaving off the glacier face. It was quite the event to witness and we were very content to be safely away, yet still observe this spectacle. As we were a small group we had optimum time in the morning to paddle and whilst the zodiac cruising party exchanged on the ship, we continued on in the relative quiet. Just kayak, paddler and ice.



Together we took the opportunity to make some group photo amidst the ice and also sing a cultural song in front of the glacier on glass calm waters. We had just turned back towards the ship when a massive alanche came down from the

hanging glacier on the western shore. Thankfully again we were at a distance and observed with reverence, not terror the amount of gravity, ice and power. As we slowly regrouped and paddled toward the ship the rain set back in. We welcomed the opportunity to head back to warmth of the ship, but were thankful for such a placid morning in amongst the ice and wildness of the Arctic.



Day 9 – Tuesday 29th August 2017

Bamsebu and Camp Millar, Bellsund

GPS position at 0800: 77°33.2' N, 015°07.7' E

Wind: E 3 Sea State:2 Weather: Partly cloudy Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 4°C



During the night, we had sailed from Hornsund in the south further north to Bellsund, named after the bell shaped mountain at the entrance to the fjord. The plan this morning had been to go ashore at Ahlstrandhalvøya, better known as Bamsebu where the remains of the beluga whale industry can be found along the shore. Piles of white bones from the white whales could be seen from the ship and before too long we were in zodiacs and making our way to the landing site next to the hut. The huts itself is well maintained and has a romantic symbol on the door; a little red love heart!

Once on shore we headed off in our different hiking groups, no long hike but some medium length walks

along the beach and across the tundra. All the groups had time to look at the relics from the whaling industry piled up on the beach and along the shore we found a Lion's mane jellyfish and some other smaller jellies. Up on the slopes everyone had good views of reindeer as they made their way across the rich tundra. At this time of year they are beginning to gather together for the rut, the mating season here on Svalbard. The males had great antlers and were closely following the females. There were still lots of flowers still booming, especially the Bog saxifrage and Moss campion and it was lovely to see greenery and flowers after a few days up in the ice and the polar desert of the northern islands.



Back along the shore Sasha spotted an Arctic fox hunting along the inland area by the lagoons. It was being chased by an Arctic skua and then a Great skua even though their chicks have already fledged from the nest. It was a very dark, chocolate coloured fox and was brave enough to approach a couple of the groups quite closely giving everyone some lovely photo opportunities as it scavenged along the shore. What a great end to the morning here at Bamsebu.



During lunch, we made our way across Bellsund to our final destination for this voyage, Camp Millar. The weather conditions were still in our favour and there were no white dots along the shore as we reached our anchorage position in the bay. The staff went ashore to scout the area and despite it being a long zodiac ride in we were soon on shore and heading off on our various hikes.

The long hikers were heading out over the hill to reach the huts at Camp Millar itself but didn't get very far as they soon came across an Arctic fox feeding around the antlers of a reindeer. A couple of keen photographers dropped out but the hikers continued and had a lovely walk across the wet tundra with reindeer all the way to

reach the huts. The view up into the mountains and along the coast were stunning and it was a really nice landing to end the trip.



Meanwhile back near the landing site the foxes were putting on a fantastic show for everyone coming quite close and seemingly enjoying the attention. They were all quite young foxes and very pale in colour and they were wonderful to watch as they scavenged around the area.

At 4.45 many people gathered to take part and witness the Polar Plunge, a chance to take a swim in the icy waters of the Arctic. Amid screams and laughter there were plenty of participants willing to brave the plunge so well done to you all! The journey back to the ship was almost like a Polar Plunge as the wind had increased and everyone got a bit of a soaking on the way back but it was a memorable trip

back....

Back on board and after hot showers for some it was time for those end of trip activities; paying bills and returning boots and lifejackets!

By 6pm we were called to the lounge once more for Captain's Cocktails, a chance to toast a very successful voyage and share our memories with our fellow passengers. It has been a fantastic trip with some wonderful and varied encounters with Polar bears as well as some memorable meeting with walrus, foxes and reindeer. There have been some natural challenges of wind and ice but we have always managed to find a Plan A, B, C or even D and given that we were often above 80° N it is hardly surprising that we encountered ice and wind.....

After the farewell dinner, many of us gathered in the bar for farewell drinks! Cheers everyone!



Day 9 – SEA KAYAK

In the morning a mash up medley of kayakers from all groups 1,2,and 3 joined up for a final paddle. A truly international group, hailing from China, Phillipines, Austria, Sweden, Spain and Alaska. This would be a bonus second paddle for the voyage. We set off into a light breeze of 7-8 knots, but easily found shelter along the shores of Ahlstrandhalvøya. As this was our second time with the kayak program it took us no time loading into the boats and the systems now seemed familiar. Cruising the coastline, we



came across one of the first hiking groups out on the tundra, but quietly paddled onward. Several small groups of Common Eider ducks bobbed on the water. We navigated around several small rocky points to find ourselves in another cove. This time two different huts were sighted both from different eras. The newer hut looked quite cozy with a new stove pipe sticking up proudly from the roof, as well as a stock pile of wood ready for use. The other hut, older and a bit more rustic blended in with the landscape and provoked the feeling of conscious isolation. The wind was picking up a bit and we decided to turn back around to be on time for lunch and the afternoons excursion. We opted for the quickest route into the zodiac which was actually to go to the beach rather than be blown around in the wind and waves. Upon reaching the shore we spotted a nice Harbour seal perched on a rock. He/She did not seem to give us much thought and was just as curious to look at us. A nice way to end the excursion.



Day 10 – Wednesday 30th August 2017

Longyearbyen

When *Ortelius* arrived at the port of Longyearbyen it was hard to believe that the expedition had come to an end – it seemed like yesterday that it had all begun. We have sailed around the archipelago of Svalbard and up into the Arctic pack ice although not quite as far as Kvitøya. We've seen Polar bears throughout our journey, from that first polar bear encountered on the ice near to Phippsøya to the 5 polar bears within the space of a few hours in Freemansundet. The walrus, ice, whales and late summer light have all been very memorable. We've met people from all over the world all of whom have come together to experience the Arctic environment at first hand and it has been a truly unforgettable expedition.

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!

Furthest North: 81°11.06' N 020°54.16' E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria Expedition Leader Michael Ginzburg, Hotel Manager Zsuzsanna Varga and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

Arctic Wildlife Species list

OtL14 21 August - 30 August 2017

		Longyearbyen	21 Juliukuta/Ny Alesund	Phippsøya	Ice Edge	Gurchneset/Kinnika	Torelineset/Vitebukta	Freemansundet/Storfløden	Burigerbukta/Gashamma	Barnesbu/Camp Miller	Longyearbyen	
English Name	Scientific	aug-21	22-aug	aug-23	aug-24	aug-25	aug-26	aug-27	aug-28	aug-29	aug-30	
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>											
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>											
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>		x									
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>		x				x					
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		x			x	x					
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			x								
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>			x		x	x	x	x			
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			x								
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>				x							
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>				x							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>			x								
English Name	Scientific	aug-21	22-aug	aug-23	aug-24	aug-25	aug-26	aug-27	aug-28	aug-29	aug-30	
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>					x						
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>			x	x		x					
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>											
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>		x	x								
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x				
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>		x	x	x		x		x			
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		x						x			
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>					x						
MAMMALS												
English	Scientific	aug-21	22-aug	aug-23	aug-24	aug-25	aug-26	aug-27	aug-28	aug-29	aug-30	
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>					x	x					
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>			x	x		x		x			
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>			x	x							
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>			x								
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>							x	x			
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>											
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	x			x			x				
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>							x	x			
White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>							x				
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>			x	x			x				
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		x									
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>		x			x		x				



1. Longyearbyen – Embarkation
2. Isfjorden - Blue and Fin Whales
3. 14th Julibukta - Glacier/Reindeer/Arctic Fox/Puffins
4. Ny Alesund - Most Northern Settlement
5. Seven Islands - 1st Polar Bear!
6. Phippsøya - After dinner hike
7. Ice edge - Polar Bear and Seals
8. Nordenskjoldbukta - Fin Whales
9. Purchaseneset - Walrus/Sabines Gull/Whalers graves
10. Kinnvika - Polar desert/Reindeer
11. Torllesneset - Polar desert/Walrus
12. Vibebukta - Zodiac cruise for icebergs and walrus
13. Bråsvellbreen - Ship Cruise along the glacier
14. Freemansundet - Lots of polar bears!
15. Storfjorden - Lots of Whales and Dolphins!
16. Burgerbukta - Glacier/ Zodiac cruise
17. Gashamna - Humpback whale/ Historical remains
18. Bamsebu - Beluga Whale Remains
19. Camp Millar - Arctic fox and Polar Plunge!
20. Longyearbyen - Disembarkation



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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?

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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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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 mountains)

TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION 2017

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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

Expedition Leader

Michael Ginzburg—探险队员&讲师



Michael 17 岁在 Alfred Wegener 技术学院极地及海洋学习时, 他专注在藻类及海冰上. 在现场的研究让他热爱此工作, 20 岁第一次在斯瓦尔巴德的工作使他沉迷于此. 目前的 12 年中专注在南北极的硅藻的生态研究.

Michael 专研在海洋及极地生物学, 花了 4 个月时间跟 12 位科学及探险家在极地做科考. 到访过 7 大洲, 不久的将来 Michael 将会分享他的照片及文章. 今天他是探险队长及走遍世界的摄影记者. 2016 年在德国不莱梅“德国流行音乐学院”聘他教授“摄影记者”的老师.

Since his first scientific project at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research at age 17, Michael focused his work on polar algae and sea ice. Field work became his passion and turned even into an addiction when he first stepped on Svalbard at the early age of 20. Michael instantly fell in love with sea ice and ever since (12 years by now) worked on the evolution and ecology of sea ice diatoms of the Arctic and Antarctic.

Michael has studied both marine and polar biology as well as participated in over a dozen scientific expeditions with durations of up to four months. Having traveled all 7 continents, it was only a matter of time before Michael began sharing his passion and love for nature in photography and articles. Today, Michael is leading expeditions and working as a photojournalist throughout the world. In 2016 Michael accepted a teaching position for photojournalism at the German POP Academy in Bremen

Ali Liddle - 探险队员及讲师



Ali 曾居住在福克兰群岛及南乔治亚岛，曾经出版过三本书。若没跑马拉松时，不是在船上，便是在教小学。

来自英国，在福克兰群岛居住的 15 年当中，不是在户外教学便是在史坦利学校教书。最近受聘于福克兰保育单位当教育官，分别当老师及保育的工作。1997 年在南乔治亚岛住了 9 个月，在负责当地的邮局，一有机会她会去徒步，滑雪，探索山巅及海岸线。

她出版的三本书有关- 福克兰群岛的植物；企鹅及信天翁美术及手工艺的书籍以启发儿童。Ali 是马拉松的爱好者，已完成 5 马，3 个在福克兰，2 个在英国，喜欢徒步，露营(特别是在福克兰群岛的偏远角落)。

这是她第 6 年在南北极探险邮轮上从事探险队员的工作。目前她的时间是分配在

Plancius 探险邮轮及英国北部郊区教学上。希望有机会回福克兰群岛重拾她非

常喜欢的生活。

Sara Jenner – Guide and Lecturer



Sara was born in England and inherited a love for travel from her parents. She and her family split their time between the UK and the South of Spain. When she was 10, she traded in her favourite pink bicycle for money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and Christmas she added a little more, and at 18, she realised her dream of travelling around Australia. She learnt to scuba dive on the Great Barrier Reef – and that was it! Travel addiction confirmed! Sara has traveled the globe in search of wild and remote places, and has spent many months volunteering on wildlife conservation projects in a bid to help some of our most iconic and endangered species. As a keen photographer, she is never happier than when she is in the back of a safari jeep or bobbing along out at sea in search of wildlife. Sara's love of wildlife and the great outdoors has taken her to all seven continents and she has travelled extensively in the Polar Regions including the Antarctic Peninsula, Svalbard, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island, Alaska, and the Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years but, of course the travel bug bit again and Sara now joins us on board in Spitsbergen.

Sara 在英国出生，遗传了父母喜欢旅行的因子。她的家庭把时间分别居住在英国及西班牙南部。她 10 岁时，变卖了她粉红色的自行车，存下来当做旅行基金。每当生日及圣诞节，她都会存点钱。18 岁时梦想成真，到澳洲旅行。在大堡礁学潜水，自此她变痴迷旅行。Sara 走遍世界去找寻荒野及偏远地区，每年会有几个月在野生动物保护协会当义工，主要针对有标志性及濒临绝种的物种。也是摄影的爱好者，很高兴在东非动物大迁徙的吉普车上或潜水时跟野生动物的近距离的接触。因喜爱野生动物，让她走遍七大洲，极地方面以去过南极半岛，斯瓦尔巴德，格陵兰，冰岛，八芬岛，阿拉斯加，加拿大北极。回到英国后，Sara 利用她的经验及知识从事极地旅游行业，旅行的瘾又犯了，所以上了斯匹次卑尔根的船。



皮伐艇專家 - Shelli Ogilvy

Shelli 在阿拉斯加出生及長大. 她成長在偏僻遠離道路的小鄉村, 冰川; 鯨魚; 熊; 大山是她的後院.

自從 1997 年她是野外嚮導領隊. 19 年在阿拉斯加, 最近 9 年在多家南北極探險公司當探險隊員. 在空檔時間她會帶領小隊伍在阿拉斯加野外做夜宿海上皮伐艇活動. 2001 年取得海洋生物學士學位. 從在不同的研究機構團體, 主要是座頭鯨及灰鯨的研究.

她在藝術上也頗有才能, 2009 出版過鳥類的書籍, 將繼續朝挑戰此堅巨的任務. 目前她常在慈善拍賣單位工作. 另外花時間在阿拉斯加的小工作房, 家附近滑雪, 河釣, 採摘野菜(食用), 這都是在美麗的極地分享着.

Kayak Guide: Shelli Ogilvy was born and raised in Alaska. She grew up in a rural community separated from the road system; with glaciers, whales, bears and big mountains as her backyard.

Shelli has been guiding as a wilderness leader since 1997. She has been guiding in Alaska for the last 19 years. She also works with multiple polar tourism companies for the last 9 years guiding in Antarctica and the Arctic. When not guiding on the ship, She is taking small groups by sea kayak out into wilderness settings for overnight camping trip in Alaska.

Shelli obtained her Bachelors of Science in 2001 with a major in Marine Biology. She has worked with several different research groups, primarily studying humpback and gray whales.

Shelli is an accomplished artist. She published an illustrated bird book in 2009 and continues to create and manage the challenges of making big messes in small spaces.

Currently she is working on pieces for charity auctions. Other interests include working on her small cabin in Alaska, backcountry skiing, flyfishing, harvesting natural foods (and eating them), and above all sharing these beautiful polar regions.

Alexander Romanovskiy, Russia



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spend 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geocological researches. In the year of 2011 however Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew. Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in

Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!

Alexander Romanovskiy - 探险队员及讲师



Alexander Romanovskiy 来自俄罗斯北部的首府，圣彼得堡，1981 年出生。完成高中住校的生活后，他进入了圣彼得堡大学，修读地质地理学，生态学，区域地理学，国际旅游学等。之后在 圣彼得堡国立师范大学 攻读地理科学博士学位。2011 他决定暂停，改从事旅行行业，走遍世界。

有二个季节时间在 塔吉克斯坦的 Fann 山做徒步响导。有一个季节时间在俄罗斯新拉扎列夫站科南极考站，当基地人员。

2012 年二月份以后，这年长居住在斯瓦尔巴德。有五个季节时间他住在斯瓦尔巴德的鬼城皮拉米顿，并当响导。2016 展开新的篇章，上探险邮轮在南极及斯瓦尔巴德当探险队员及自然科学讲师。

每年有 3-4 各月时间，会花在他喜欢的世界旅行上。没公交车，不住旅店，一路搭便车，不是住在当地居民家，便是搭营账睡。已到访过苏联共和国，中东(伊朗,土耳其)，亚洲(中国)，南美(阿根廷,智利,巴拉圭)，离终还远着!! 这世界是大的，有善的，值得去探索的!!

Lydia Messingfeld – Expedition Guide



English: Lydia is from Germany. She studied in Bonn to become a translator for Korean and Japanese. Nevertheless, after working as an international exchange co-ordinator for a while, she decided to pursue her real passion, Biology. In 2016 she graduated with a Master's degree in Organismic, Evolutionary and Palaeobiology. For her Master's thesis she was employed by the Alfred-Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven and spent three months at the Marine Laboratory in Ny-Ålesund at around 79°N to conduct laboratory and field experiments on the ecology of Arctic kelps. After experiencing the beauty of the North, Lydia could not stay away and returned to study Arctic Biology as a visiting student at UNIS in Longyearbyen for four months where she learned all about water and zooplankton sampling, and sea ice ecology.

In addition, Lydia has a passion for birds and is experienced with catching little auks, Arctic terns, and Barnacle geese. Other interests include sea-kayaking, diving, water skiing, and dancing. She joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide in August 2016.

Deutsch: Lydia kommt aus Deutschland. Sie ist ursprünglich Diplom-Übersetzerin für Koreanisch und Japanisch. Nachdem sie eine Zeit lang an der Universität Wuppertal als Internationalisierungs Koordinatorin gearbeitet hatte, fasste sie den Entschluss ihrer wahren Leidenschaft zu folgen und studierte Biologie an der Universität Bonn. Seit 2016 hat sie ihren M.Sc. Abschluss in Organismischer, Evolutions- und Paläobiologie in der Tasche. Lydia arbeitete im Rahmen ihrer Masterarbeit für das Alfred-Wegener Institut in Bremerhaven und verbrachte drei Monate in Ny-Ålesund auf fast 79°N, um Labor- und Freilandexperimente zu der Ökologie Arktischer Braunalgen durchzuführen. Die Schönheit des Nordens faszinierte Lydia so sehr, dass sie nicht lange fernbleiben konnte. Sie kehrte nach Longyearbyen zurück und studierte vier Monate lang Arktische Biologie als Gaststudentin am University Centre of Svalbard. In dieser Zeit lernte sie vor allem viel über Zooplankton- und Wasserproben, sowie Meereisökologie. Lydia liebt die arktische Vogelwelt und konnte im Rahmen von verschiedenen Projekten bereits beim Fangen von Krabbentauchern, Küstenseeschwalben, und Weißwangengänsen assistieren. Zu ihren Interessen gehört außerdem Kayak- und Wasserskifahren, Tauchen, und Tanzen. Lydia arbeitet seit August 2016 nebenberuflich als Guide für Oceanwide Expeditions.

Tanja Bayer – Ship’s Physician

塔尼亚 - 随船医师



塔尼亚来自德国，她在德国是综合科目医生，特长是外科手术和潜水药品。她第一次在偏远地区工作在西部澳大利亚 1989 年工作了 3 个月。她非常喜欢在诊所外工作。

2009 年她第一次去到南极半岛，她收到一家德国潜水杂志的邀请写一篇关于南极潜水的文章，两周后她爱上了这里，开始思考如何可以常常来到这里。

2010 年她开始在不同船上做随船医师

2015 年她开始在 **Oceanwide** 工作，每年都会在极地地区工作 **12-14** 周。

她喜欢水，大海，冰，浪和在这里面生活的所有生物。

她在德国还有潜水学校，也带学员去全世界潜水。在北极季早期，有时她也会在船上作为潜水教练。

在富裕的时间，她会教给潜水学员和船员很多偏远地区急救的技巧。教他们如何检查确保意外不会发生。

最后祝您旅途愉快，愿这次旅程成为你一生难忘的体验。

Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew of 50

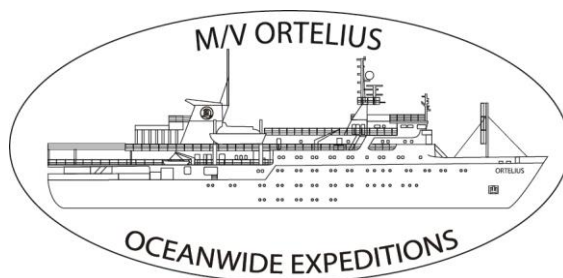
including

First Officer:	Yury Marin	[Russia]
Second Officer:	Choroscia Laimonas	[Lithuania]
Third Officer:	Luis Oroceo	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuanian]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Djengiz Fejzulai	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Gabor Kiss	[Hungary]
Sous Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Ship's Physician:	Tanya Bayer	[Germany]

and

Expedition Leader:	Michael Ginzburg	[Russia/Germany]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Alison Liddle	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Shelli Ogilvy	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovskiy	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Arjen Drost	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Lydia Messingfield	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Jerry Zao	[China]

We welcome you on board!



Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

August 21st – August 30th 2017

Day 1 Monday August 21st 2017.

Embarkation Longyearbyen

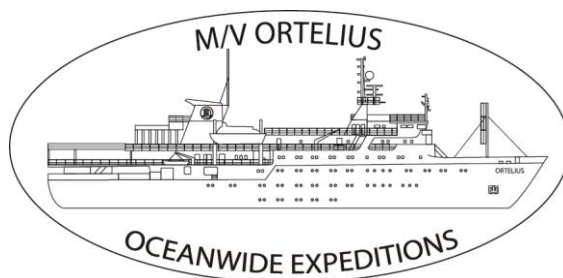
WELCOME ABOARD!

Your luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage and let us know if anything is missing.

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

- ±17.30 **Welcome Briefing.** This will be in the Lecture Room on **Deck 3** forward. You will meet your Expedition Leader, Michael Ginzburg and the Hotel Manager, Zsuzsanna Varga will introduce you to life on board the Ortelius. This will be followed by a mandatory **'Safety at Sea'** briefing and abandon ship drill. **All passengers must attend this briefing.**
- ±18.00 Departure of the Ortelius from the pier. The Bridge will be closed during the departure, while we are sailing out of the harbour. It will be announced when the Bridge will be open.
- 18:30 **Welcome Meeting.** A chance to meet your Captain, Ernesto Barria and the Expedition Team in the Bar at Deck 6. You will hear of our plans for the coming voyage.
- 19.30 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room, which can be found on Deck 4 behind Reception. Please try to be on time! Thank you and Bon Appetite!

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 Kongsfjorden. 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 124 nautical miles (1 nm. is around 1,9 kilometres).

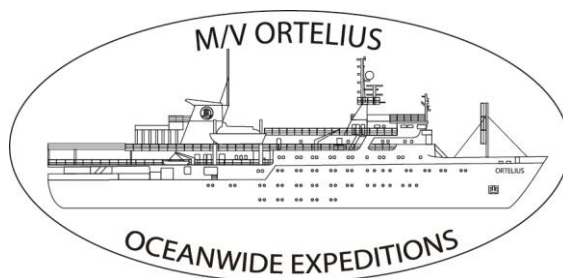


Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

August 21st – August 30th 2017

Day 2 Tuesday August 22nd
14th Julibukta and Ny Alesund

- 7.00 Your first wake-up call from your Expedition Leader, Michael.
- 7.30 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour
- 8.30 Please join us for a **Mandatory Zodiac and Polar Bear Safety** briefing so that we are ready to go ashore on Svalbard. This will be in the Lecture Room on Deck 3. **Please be on time for this!**
- 10.00 **14th Julibukta.** We hope to offer two activities at 14th Julibukta with a landing and a zodiac cruise. Everyone will do both activities. The landing may allow us to view reindeer and possibly an Arctic fox as well as explore the rich vegetation of the area below the bird cliffs. The zodiac cruise will go cruise along some bird cliffs in search of Puffins and Guillemots.
- 12.30 A buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour
- ~14.30 This afternoon we hope to visit **Ny Alesund**, a former mining community and now the northern most settlement in the world made up of International Research Stations. It was also a starting point of famous expeditions by polar heroes such as the great Roald Amundsen. You will have the chance to send out post cards from the most northerly office in the world and the museum will also be open during our visit. There is no entry charge for the museum. The souvenir shop will be open from 15.00 – 16.00. Please be aware that the shop only accepts Norwegian Kroners, US\$ and Euros as well as the common credit and maestro cards.
- **It is very important that no active cell phones or other mobile devices are brought to shore. The WiFi, Bluetooth and cell receivers will disturb the scientific measurements.****
- Once we are all back on board, Shelli our Kayak Guide would like to meet everyone who has pre-booked Kayaking for a Mandatory Briefing. Please listen for announcements regarding this!**
- 18.30 Daily recap in the lounge. Join us for a pre-dinner drink and a chance to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.



Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

August 21st – August 30th 2017

Day 3 Wednesday August 23rd Navigating North and Phippsøya

- 7.30 Your morning wake-up call! Good Morning!!.
- 8.00 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour

Expedition Morning!

During the morning, we will continue to navigate northwards towards Phippsøya in the Seven Islands. Our progress will be very much dependent on the ice conditions we find on the way. Enjoy the journey and listen for any announcements regarding wildlife and activities.

- 12.30 A buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour

TBA Phippsøya. After lunch, we hope to be able to take you ashore on Phippsøya. We may see Walrus hauled out on the beach next to an old trapper's hut and we also hope to be able to offer you a choice of hikes through the terrain of a typical high Arctic island.

We will offer 3 hike options.

Long Hike: This will be an extended walk at a good pace over rough, steep ground to gain some height and enjoy views across the island and to the pack ice.

Medium Hike: This will be similar to the Long Hike but at a lower height level.

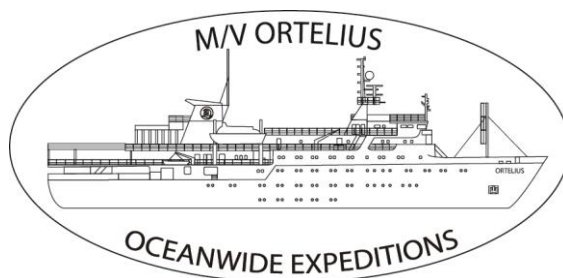
Photography Walk: This will be a short walk, in terms of distance with plenty of time to take photos as you go.

*****Please note all groups will visit the Walrus during the afternoon if they are home.**

Please choose the hike option that suits your ability and expectations.

We would like the Long Hikers to come to the gangway first followed by everyone else at. Please listen for announcements regarding timings for this.

- 18.30 Daily recap in the lounge. Join us for a pre-dinner drink and a chance to look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.



Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

August 21st – August 30th 2017

**Day 4 Thursday August 24rd
Expedition Day in the Ice!**

7.30 A gentle wake-up call.....! Good Morning Polar Explorers!!

8.00 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour.

During the morning, we will continue our navigation through the Pack Ice to the northeast of Svalbard! The guides will be on watch looking out for Polar bears, seals and other marine life so please join them on deck to see what we can find in this spectacular icy environment.

Wildlife permitting, we will also have a lecture presentation during the morning so please listen for announcements regarding this.

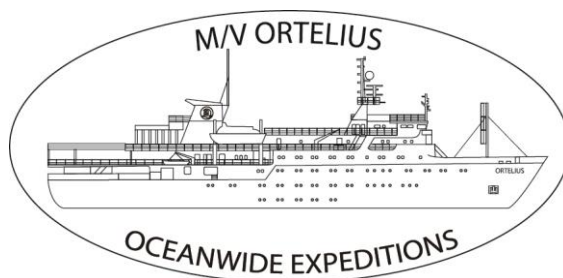
12.30 Buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour.

Exploration in the Pack Ice continues!

Again, we will continue our search for Polar bears and other Arctic animals as we head towards Kvitøya. By this time the guides eyes will be popping out but we will continue our search and enjoy the experience of being in the ice.....

18.30 Daily recap in the lounge. We will recap what we have seen during the past day and look ahead to the plans for the coming days.

19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Bon appetite!



Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

August 21st – August 30th 2017

Day 5 Friday August 25th Purchasneset and Kinnvika

- 7.00 Your early morning call..... and, no you can't switch it off!!
- 7.30 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour.
- ~9.00 **Purchasneset on Lågøya.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore on Lågøya, which is a very rarely visited island in the Svalbard archipelago. The island is relatively flat but the landing site at Purchasneset offers opportunities for walks in the area and a chance to maybe see one of the rarer species of birds in Svalbard, the Sabine's gull.
KAYAK GROUP 1 LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS!
- 12.30 Buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour.
- TBA **Kinnvika.** Again, this is a rarely visited part of Svalbard but we hope to be able to land and offer a number of hiking options in the area. On shore, you will also see a number of buildings that were built by Swedish scientists for the International Geophysical Year in 1957-58.
Please listen for announcements regarding your Zodiac time.
KAYAKERS GROUP 2 LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS!

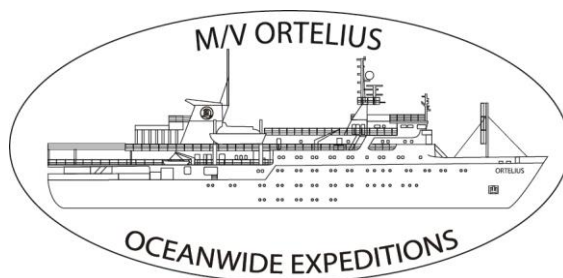
We will offer **3 hike** options. **PLUS A KAYAK OPTION IF WEATHER PERMITS**

Long Hike: This will be an extended walk at a good pace over rough, steep ground to reach the summit of a nearby peak to enjoy views across Nordestlandet and the surrounding area.

Medium Hike: This will be similar to the Long Hike but at a lower height level.

Photography Walk: This will be a short walk, in terms of distance with plenty of time to take photos as you go.

- 18.30 Daily recap in the lounge. We will recap what we have seen during the past day and look ahead to the plans for the coming days.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Bon appetite!



Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

August 21st – August 30th 2017

Day 6 Saturday August 26th

Torellneset and Vibebukta, Nordauslandet

- 7.00 Your early morning call..... and, no you can't switch it off!!
- 7.30 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour.
- ~9.00 **Torellneset on Nordauslandet.** This morning we hope to be able to take you ashore at Torellneset. We will offer some hiking options inland and, if they are home, we will visit another walrus haul out site to see some more of these enigmatic blubbery mammals!!

Please listen for announcements regarding the hikes and disembarkation time.

- 12.30 Buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour.
- TBA **Vibebukta.** This afternoon we hope to be able to take you ashore at Vibebukta, which is a bay near to the edge of Bråsvellbreen on Nordaustland. We will offer our usual hiking options which will take us into the 'polar desert' and along the coast.

Please listen for announcements regarding timings for our afternoon landing. As usual it will be weather and wildlife dependent!

KAYAKING. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER KAYAKING THIS AFTERNOON SO PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THE GROUP NUMBER AND TIMINGS. THANK YOU.

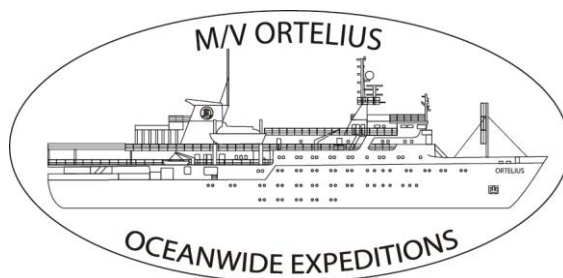
We will offer 3 hike options.

Long Hike: This will be an extended walk inland at a good pace over rough, steep ground to enjoy views of the Hinlopen Strait and the interior of Nordaustlandet

Medium Hike: This will be similar to the Long Hike but at a lower height level.

Photography Walk: This will be a short walk, in terms of distance with plenty of time to take photos as you go.

- 18.30 Daily recap in the lounge. We will recap what we have seen during the past day and look ahead to the plans for the coming days.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Bon appetite!



Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

August 21st – August 30th 2017

Day 7 Sunday August 27th Sundneset and Kapp Lee

7.00 Time to wake up and enjoy the day! Good Morning!

7.30 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour.

~9.00 **Sundneset.** This morning we plan to go ashore on the island of Barentsøya where there is an old trapper's hut and some rich tundra to explore. There are freshwater lakes nearby so we hope to take a walk towards these to see some of the breeding birds. We will offer the usual range of hikes, including a longer hike around the lake so please listen for announcements regarding departure from the ship for the various walking groups. As always, the landing will be weather and wildlife dependent!

KAYAKING. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER KAYAKING TO GROUP 3 THIS MORNING SO PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS. THANK YOU.

12.30 Buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour.

14.30 **Kapp Lee.** We hope to go ashore at this very scenic location. There are historic Pomor remains near the landing beach. The area has rich tundra along the coastline which makes it a good location to view reindeer. In the past, this area used to be used as a walrus hunting beach and there is a 'walrus graveyard' on the shore. There may be some walrus in the area.

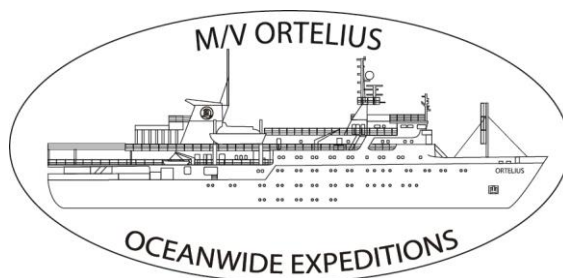
Long Hike: This will be an extended walk to reach the peak above the landing beach and then enjoy views across the Freemansundet.

Medium Hike: This will take you along the lower slopes of the tundra.

Photography Walk: This will be a short walk, in terms of distance with plenty of time to take photos as you go.

18.30 Daily recap in the lounge. We will recap what we have seen during the past day and look ahead to the plans for the coming days.

19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Bon appetite!



Around Spitsbergen and Kvitøya

August 21st – August 30th 2017

Day 8 Monday August 28th Burgerbukta and Gåshamna

7.30 Your wake-up call.....!!

8.00 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour.

During the early part of the morning we will be navigating into the beautiful fjord system of Hornsund. There are 8 glaciers flowing down into the fjord and impressive mountains, including Hornsundtind, the third highest mountain in Svalbard at 1,431m. Enjoy the views from the outer decks.

9.00 **Burgerbukta.** This is the northernmost bay in the inner part of Hornsund. The whole fjord system of Hornsund is spectacular with steep mountains and many glaciers flowing down to the sea. We hope to be able to offer a Zodiac cruise along the front of one of the glaciers and amongst the many icebergs that can be found in the bay. We will split the groups for cruising as we did before:

1st Group at 9.00. Cabins 334 – 446 or 1 – 60 on the Tag board list in Reception.

2nd Group at 10.45 Cabins 447 – 529 or 61 – 117 on the tag board in Reception.

Please be prompt at the gangway and if you want to be with your friends in the zodiac please arrange this yourselves at the gangway prior to boarding!

KAYAKING.WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER KAYAKING TO GROUP 3 THIS MORNING SO PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS. THANK YOU.

13.00 Buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour.

~14.30 **Gåshamna.** This is a historic location with many remains from the Russian Arc of Meridian expedition in 1899 on one side of the bay. This bay was also used for whaling by the English and we will see whaling station remains, such as blubber cookers and plenty of whale bones. There are also some Pomor house remains around the coast.

We hope to be able to offer a range of walks but we will need to see the weather conditions when we arrive and will announce the options at pre-landing briefing or over the PA system.

18.45 Re-cap. Please join the expedition team in the bar

19.00 Special Arctic Dinner is served! Dress warmly!!