

on board

## m/v Ortelius

## August 12<sup>th</sup> - August 21<sup>st</sup> 2017



19<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Burgerbukta

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 49

including

	including	
First Officer:	Yury Marin	[Russia]
Second Officer:	Luis Oroceo	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Andy Mangilit	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuanian]
Hotel Manager:	Zsuzsanna Varga	[Hungary]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Djengiz Fejzulai	[Macedonia]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Ship's Physician:	Tanya Bayer	[Germany]

#### and

Expedition Leader: Assist. Expedition Leader: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide:

Michael Ginzburg Alison Liddle Sara Jenner Shelli Ogilvy Expedition Guide: Alexander Romanovskiy Arjen Drost John Yeh Jerry Zao

[Russia/Germany] [Great Britain] [Great Britain] [USA] [Russia] [Netherlands] [Australia] [China]

## We welcome you on board!

## Day 1 – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Long-yearbyen. 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. One was by our Expedition Leader Michael, another by our Hotel Manager Zsuzannah. We were then briefed by Second Officer Louis on ship safety and how to prepare for abandon ship procedures, should the worst incident happen on board.

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 everyone was present we went out to the lifeboats and some of us actually went inside to explore the cosy surroundings!





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. It was then time to head to the dining room for the first of many delicious meals to be prepared by Heinz 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 – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017 14<sup>th</sup> Julybukta and Ny Ålesund

#### GPS position at 0800: 79°07.4' N, 011°48.4' E Wind: SE 3. Sea State: Calm Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: 11°C Sea Temp: 9°C



Overnight we had sailed north past Prins Karls Forland and up into Kongsfjorden. As breakfast was being served we anchored facing the 14<sup>th</sup> Julibukta glacier which was to be the location of our morning excursion, a truly magnificent Arctic landscape surrounded us. Before going a shore, 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.

We split into four groups and set off in different directions in search of wildlife and wild flowers. We were not disappointed! Whilst on land we saw several reindeer feeding on the rich tundra vegetation

below the seabird cliffs, flocks of barnacle geese, some nesting Arctic skuas and even got lucky seeing an

Arctic fox. 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. This individual was unusually pale in colour so stood out well against the green tundra allowing people to view it with ease.

We also walked to 'hanging gardens' to observe the pretty summer flowers which were now in full bloom. This little cliff face is sheltered from the wind and south facing so the plants here grow taller than anywhere else on Svalbard. As we made our way to the other end of the beach, towards the glacier, the stony moraine reminds us of the position of this glacier less than 50 years ago. For such a small location, it offers such contrast!





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 home to loved ones and of course sample the local delicacy, freshly cooked waffles with jam and cream. We then followed Arjen out to the mast used to anchor a Zeppelin airship in 1926 and where he spoke of the history of Arctic exploration and the at-

tempts to reach the North Pole from Spitsbergen.

Back on-board Michael led a short recap where he also explained what the plan was for tomorrow and then it was time for dinner which concluded our first full day in the high Arctic.









## Day 3 – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Chermsideøya, Phippsøya, & Vesle Tavleøya

GPS position at 0800: 79°43.6' N, 011°04.2' E Wind: W 2 Sea Sate: Slight Weather: Overcast/fog Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 6°C



We woke to a soft blanket of clouds over the northern islands of Nordkappt. We had travelled many kilometers overnight, and had made good time arriving at Chermsideøya. Calm conditions were found as the ship settled into anchorage in Beverlysundet. After a leisurely breakfast Michael called us into the lounge for a short pre-landing briefing. We would be exploring a small section of the polar desert and its rich history at "graffiti beach". Due to the size of the location we split into two different groups, one to cruise, one to slowly wander and photograph the rock displays, after one hour or so the groups switched. The morn-

ing felt quite cold compared to days prior. We were now at 80<sup>-</sup>28'38 N and would only be going farther into the wild northern arctic as the day progressed. After we had all had a chance to soak in the stunning and stark polar desert we headed back to the ship to enjoy the warm delights the galley provided for lunch. We continued sailing north towards the afternoon's planned activity of landing in the Seven Islands, particularly at Phippsøya, a wild island in the north renowned for walrus as well as a high proportion of bear sightings. In route, we were interrupted by a privileged sighting of Blue whales from the bridge. The expedition team were out on deck helping us find these giants of the sea. The Captain slowed the ship and diverted course slightly so we all had the chance to see *Balaenoptera musculus*. After nearly 45 minutes of viewing we renewed course to Phippsøya. The weather had turned a bit wet and rainy, but conditions were good to land. The guides set out to scout the landing and shortly we disembarked Ortelius for the second event of the day. We divided into three different groups, long hikers, medium walkers and photography/beach combers. Dressed fully in our wet weather gear we set out to discover this magnificent island. The expedition team were quite pleased, as the last two attempts to land in the previous weeks had been thwarted due to ice.



The long hikers headed off with Ali and Sara, a nice group of 18, their plan was to cover some ground and stretch the legs, as well fitting in a visit to the walrus. The medium group also departed around the pond to explore the terrain before a planned social call to the *Tooth walkers*. Just as the last zodiac was about to touch the beach, a call came over the radio that a polar bear had been spotted by the longer hikers. An immediate evacuation plan was set into place. The hikers retreated under direction of Ali and Sara, all the other hiking parties also quickly and calmly returned to the landing site. With co-operation between the expedition guides, bridge team, and crew drivers all passengers were quickly loaded back into the zodiacs and transported to the ship.



Once back on board the ship was alive with chatter of the afternoon's events. We were all excited to have been around the presence of the bear, even though many of us had not seen it. Once everyone was back on board we headed to the lounge for a re-cap of the day's events and situations avoided. Also, the plan for the coming days in the ice was discussed. Michael explained to all of us the need to follow safety procedures and regulations in regards to polar bear encounters on land, and re-iterated our protocols and desire to keep everyone safe. Afterwards Shelli spoke to the biology of Blue whales and Ali lent some tips for spotting polar bears on the ice. We then headed to dinner, shortly after dessert we were notified of something else very sweet. A polar bear and her cub had been spotted on Vesle Tavleøya the small island just north of Phippsøya. We bundled back up and headed outside with cameras and binoculars to view these two animals perched 40 meters up on a rocky ledge. The bears had likely come over on the sea ice that had been around these islands in the weeks prior and subsequently got stuck.

Now they would have to wait for the ice to come back or take a daring swim to another island in search of food. Huddled together out of the weather conditions they looked quite content. It was decided that we would stay here for the night in hopes that in the early morning the bears might be up and active. The Captain gave the order to set the anchor, Ortelius's powerful engines were shut down for the night and we enjoyed a quiet evening in the mist and fog. A wonderful day.



## Day 4 – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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



Today we were woken by Michael an hour before schedule. The Polar bears were still sleeping on the cliff and we were offered a zodiac cruise to have a closer look. Only few of us decided to turn around again and stay in bed, so soon the Zodiacs were filled and headed towards Rossøya, one of the northernmost islands of the archipelago. The bears were still quite high up on the island and were partially hidden behind a small ridge. But sometimes they were kind enough to lift their heads and have a look at those strange black things that were below them in the water, al-

lowing us to have a decent look at them.

Apart from the bears there were some Kittiwakes and Brünnich's Guillemots breeding on the island and several Puffins were seen as well. One unfortunate Brünnich's Guillemot chick ended up as quite a large breakfast for a Glaucous Gull, who clearly had difficulties swallowing this bird at once.

Back on the ship we had breakfast and we set sail towards the pack ice! How exciting, when would we see the first ice floes on the horizon? Before we saw any ice, several Fin Whales were seen. After the largest whale, yesterday's Blue Whales, we now have also seen the second largest whale. When the whales were gone, we



were called to the bar to attend a lecture by Arjen about Polar bears. Interesting to know a little bit more about these charismatic animals that we hoped to see even better later on in the trip...



Shortly before lunch the first ice floes were seen and so after lunch we all dressed up warmly and headed outside to enjoy this fantastic icescape around us. The Captain brought the ship deeper and deeper into the ice. We headed north east most of the time, bringing us closer and closer to the pole. We were now well over 81ºN, our northernmost point, 81º22'N was 'only' 518 nautical miles (=959km) from the geographical North Pole. Meanwhile the members of the expedition team had positioned themselves on the bridge, scanning the ice for 'mayonnaisecoloured objects' on the ice. Just after 15:00 they hit the jackpot: a Polar bear was found!! In the beginning, it didn't seem too interested in the ship, but when Captain Ernesto Barria positioned the ship on the way of the bear we could have really good looks on the bear when he passed the ship. Many pictures were taken, especially

when he jumped from one floe to another. After a while the bear decided it was enough and he continued his search for seals.

For us this was the sign to continue as well, a bit more east now, towards our next destination: Kvitøya. But this still meant there was a lot of ice to cross, so the search continued. Several seals were seen swimming in the water, mostly Harp seals. Most of the time the ship was followed by a group of Kittiwakes, who took advantage of the Ortelius pushing away ice floes and thereby exposing the small Polar Cod that is hiding underneath these floes. Pomarine and Arctic Skuas in turn were following these Kittiwakes to steal their prey. At recap Michael explained our plans for the next day: we hoped to reach Kvitøya! And Ali and Arjen explained about some of the birds and bears that we had seen and about the movement and disappearance of the ice.

After another fabulous dinner prepared by our chef Heinz it was time to relax. We more in open water (and the visibility had reduced a lot due to sea fog), so it was time to look at our pictures or for a drink in the bar. Excited about the things we had seen today and about what was to come the next day.









## Day 5 – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Kvitøya

GPS position at 0800: 79°07.5' N, 011°49.5' E Wind: SE 2 Sea State: Slight Weather: Fair Air Temp: 14°C Sea Temp: 0°C



Most of us had been woken by the sound of ice along the side of the ship long before the wake-up call at 7.30 but there was time for a bit of a lie in as we made our way towards Kvitøya. As we made our way out on deck before breakfast we could see that there was ice all around and that our speed had slowed significantly during the night and early part of the morning.

Michael announced over the PA system that we would continue on our planned route towards Kvitøya and see what the day brought. One of the first features of interest in the area were two boats that

were making their way through the pack ice even more slowly than we were. It turned out that one of them was a luxury super yacht with a tender tied to the stern and one was an ice breaking support boat to enable a yacht of this kind to make it up into the ice. The Bridge team spoke to them both and it was reported that they had been trying to get through the ice to Kvitøya for a day or so with no luck. They planned to follow our route but in the meantime, they reported that they had seen a polar bear nearby to their location and invited us to take a closer look.

We sailed in their direction and it wasn't long before the eagle eyes of members of the Expedition Team and Captain saw a female bear and her cub making their way across the ice floes. The Captain very slowly and carefully navigated Ortelius through the ice towards where the bears were. They suddenly disappeared and were then seen swimming in open water. The cub did a great job of keeping up with its mother and before long they climbed out onto the ice. Female bears with their cubs are generally quite shy, the female naturally wants to



protect her cub so we made sure not to get too close and allowed them to continue on their way over the ice. What a wonder encounter!



During the morning, there was a number of short presentations given by the guides in the lounge. Ali talked about some of the women that have made their mark on Svalbard, including Leonie d' Aunet who was the first woman to visit the archipelago in 1839. Shelli explained about the different seals found in the region and Sara talked about Arctic foxes.

Back out on deck the visibility was improving all the time and although we were still making slow progress through the ice it was an incredible experience to be travelling through the pack ice in such

lovely conditions. Kittiwakes were seen catching small polar cod as we broke through the ice and slowly the ice edge of Kvitøya came into view.

After lunch, we found ourselves in open water once again and were able to increase speed and before too long we were dropping the anchor off Andreneset on Kvitøya. All we could see was ice, from the high ice cliffs to the huge ice cap covering the island. There was a line of rock visible along the shore but even this was blocked by ice that had washed in from sea. The guides were up on deck scouting the coastline as this is a notoriously 'beary' place and sure enough Ali





spotted a bear on the ice along the shore which then went into the water and began to make is way along the coast. It seemed a landing would not be possible today.

Instead 10 zodiacs were launched for a cruise and just as the guides were waiting on the water by the ship the swimming bear appeared on ice near to the ship, got into the water again and began making her way back towards Ortelius. She swam in front of the bow and then disappeared into the ice and mist once more.

Once the zodiacs were loaded we made our way along the shore where we saw a number of walrus both on ice and in the water. It

was an eerie afternoon with mist coming and going allowing us glimpses of the island and at one point the whole of the ice cap could be seen. We made our way through the ice until we reached the location where Andre set up camp after crashing his airship on the sea ice whilst attempting to fly over the north pole. The 3 members of the expedition perished here and looking at the island in the middle of summer it wasn't hard to understand why....

After nearly 2 hours on the water we were all suitable chilled so the guides set their GPS on 'Go To' mode and headed back along the coast. With the ice lights shining Ortelius finally came into view and we were all very happy to get back on board and warmed up.

What a memorable day it had been here at Kvitøya.







## Day 6 – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Bråsvellbreen and Kapp Waldburg

#### GPS position at 0800: 79°14.8' N, 025°37.8' E

Wind: WNW 7 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Fair Air Temp: 4°C Sea Temp: 1°C



Overnight we had sailed south, passing the east 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. This morning the plan was 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. Blue skies and sunshine awaited us as we finished breakfast, so we wrapped up warmly and headed out on deck to marvel at this natural spectacle. We spent the morning slowing making our way along the ice cliff, giving us time to appreciate its sheer size and splendour.



The plan was then to continue along the coast to Vibebukta where we hoped to spend the afternoon in order to have a bit of a leg stretch and visit a walrus haul out- assuming that they were at home of course!

However, we were met by a thick belt of glacial ice which significantly slowed our progress and delayed our proposed arrival time. To add to this, the bridge then received a message from another expedition vessel that there was bad swell at our proposed landing site, preventing them from landing there earlier in the day. Therefore, there was no option but to look towards a possible Plan B or even a Plan C for this afternoon ac-

tivities! While the Captain tried to negotiate these unforeseen ice and weather conditions the expedition staff entertained us with various lectures and we were encouraged to get out on to deck and enjoy the

evocative seascape which indeed proved to be a satisfying distraction from the disappointment of not getting ashore.

On days where no real activity takes place, it can be easy to become frustrated at the weather conditions or the wildlife but a true Arctic experience can offer so much more if you allow it to. Whether it be a recognition of those who travelled here before and the various hardships they faced, an appreciation of the unique and sometimes challenging landscape Svalbard offers or simply time for personal reflection and one thing is for sure, this afternoon at least gave us time for this.



However, the day was far from over and in the daily recap Michael remained positive that we might still be able to muster up an activity later that evening for those that wanted - this was perhaps going to be a plan D or E!

Whilst dinner was being served we sailed into Freemansundet and as was becoming true to form for this voyage, a polar bear was spotted within minutes. Although it was resting high up on the hill, once again our plans for a landing had to be aborted. However, it was felt that everyone would benefit from getting off the ship so it was agreed we would do an after-dinner zodiac cruise along the shoreline to try and get a better look at the bear and then make our way along to the glacier, which was now being illuminated in beautiful evening sunshine. As we finished our deserts and coffee the expedition staff lowered the zodiacs in to the water, ready for our embarkation. We made our way along the shoreline in a hope the polar bear would wake from its slumber and come down to see us, but it wasn't meant to be on this occasion so slowly we headed along to Freemanbreen. The bridge then reported seeing a couple of other polar bears on the opposite side of the straight so we crossed over, but unfortunately, they must have been positioned too high up on a ledge for us to get a view from the water. At which point we decided to call it a day and head back to the Ortelius as it was already approaching 11pm and most people were ready for a warming night cap, tired from the highs and lows of a 'true' expedition day!



## Day 7 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Sundneset / Agardhbukta /Storfjorden

GPS position at 0800: 78°12.9' N, 021°10.1' E Wind: NW 6 Sea State: 3 slight Weather: fair Air Temp: 6°C Sea Temp: 5°C



We had spent the night anchored in Freemansundet next to the glacier and the sleeping bear from the day before. In the morning, we noticed the bear had moved, but not far from its previous spot. We sipped tea or coffee enjoying the views as the ship hauled anchor and we set off for the morning destination of Sundneset. A light wind freshened the air, and stellar sunshine broadcast across the sky.

Zodiacs were launched, the site was scouted, and finally we were informed we were clear to land. Separating into long, medium, and photography groups we headed to shore to explore the tundra. Reindeer were spotted on

the far ridges and as we looped around towards some of the fresh water ponds, red-throated divers were sited, as well as Eider and Barnacle Geese. The tundra was painted with blossoms of buttercup, Artic poppy, and a few saxifrage blossoms holding out as the quick change of autumn is on its way. We were all quite happy to have had the opportunity to stretch our legs, and headed back to the ship for lunch and a quick transit to Kapp Lee. Unfortunately, in the short time it took us to get there. The combination of wind

and ocean swell made for unsafe landing conditions. The Captain redirected the ship towards Agardhbukta, a large open bay on the western side of Storfjorden. The sun was still strong and many of us took the opportunity to stay out on deck enjoying the views and making for a little Arctic sunbathing.

The wind kept with us until well into the late afternoon, when suddenly around 5:30 pm it dropped. The sea turned milky calm as if the 35 knots of wind was just a bad dream. Three fin whales were spotted, and the Captain slowed the ship to offer us a chance to observe these mighty animals of the arctic waters. After some time viewing we



tucked into the lounge for an evening re-cap about the plans for tomorrow. Zsuzsanna surprised us with complimentary mulled wine and we proceeded to the dining room for an indoor BBQ.



After dinner, the Chinese guests started preparations in the dining room for making Dumplings! There was much laughter and cheerfulness as they prepared the components of dough and assorted fillings. End result was over 900 dumplings made, the last ones finishing around 12:30 am.

The long arctic day was not yet finished as more whales were spotted, Fin, Minke and even white beaked dolphins were seen about the ship. From 9:30 pm on until the sky turned a magnificent pink we could stay out on deck viewing whales and burning megapixels. A stunning evening to a fantastic day.









## Day 8 – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Burgerbukta and Gåshamna, Hornsund

GPS position at 0800: 76°42.9' N, 015°29.3' E Wind: ENE 2 Sea State: 1 Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 8°C Sea Temp: 8°C



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 Hornsundtind, third highest peak on Spitsbergen and a sprawling mass of towers and buttresses. There was a sense of anticipation amongst the guides as we waited for Zodi-

acs to be lowered. The early cloud had begun to break up, splashes of blue creating patchwork in the sky and sunshine glistening on ripples from the wake of MV Ortelius. Most passengers shared our enthusiasm and dressed accordingly with sunglasses in abundance. The western arm of Burgerbukta was easily navigable yet still filled with chunks of ice ranging from fist sized through to colossally calved bergs relative to the size of Paierlbreen. As always in good sunlight, the kaleidoscope of blues in the ice never fails to astound. Coupled with a myriad of different shapes and sizes, it was a visual smorgasbord for the lover of ice! Advancing northwards up the fjord, we passed kittiwakes, black guillemots and puffins before reaching the tranquility of the glacier front. A two km long stretch of ice wall which frequently gives birth to the treats we had witnessed further out. The scenery at this point is astounding - steep cliffs, soaring summits and tumultuous ice - breathtaking! For some of us the zodiac cruise got a little different turn when their zodiac turned into a piece of ice which punctured one of the pontoons. Slowly they had to make their way back to the ship and board a different zodiac before they could continue with their trip.

In the afternoon we crossed Hornsund to Gåshamna at the southern shores of the fjord. Just when we were about to get ready, Michael announced a pod of Beluga was seen. And what a pod!! At least 60 of these magnificent white whales were seen swimming on all sides of the ship. At first they were hugging the shores of the bay, but later they started to cross to the other side, coming even closer to Ortelius. A really good sight of these high Arctic whales for all of us! When they had disappeared we headed ashore. On shore we split up in the usual



three groups where the long hikers went steep uphill to get a higher viewpoint over the fjord. The medium and leisurely groups took it slower. They both first had a look at the remains of the British and Dutch whales, who left a lot of whale bones and several blubber ovens on shore. A sad reminder of one of the darker pages of Spitsbergen history. After that a smaller hike was made over the tundra towards some remains of Pomor hunters and other view points. Back on the ship recap was brief, with just Szuszanna and Micheal explaining the program for the next day (including information about the disembarkation in Longyearbyen) and Arjen surprised us with a short movie made during our days in the ice. When we thought we would go for dinner a different call came through the PA: the pod of Belugas was found again in another bay. So instead of going to the dining room, we headed outside again to enjoy these special whales. After diner the show wasn't over. The captain had brought the ship close to the Samarinbreen, so we dressed up again and went outside to look at the beautiful glacier in late evening light. A very nice view before we went to bed.





## Day 9 – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Snatcherpynten and Recherchefjord, Bellsund

#### GPS position at 0800: 77°33.7' N, 015°05.3' E Wind: NW 4 Sea State:2 Weather: Partly cloudy Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 7°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. Well, the plan this morning had been to go ashore at 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 but unfortunately white waves from the wind could be seen on the sea. There was a light covering of fresh snow up on the mountain peaks making it feel very much like Autumn was on its way. The wind was steadily blowing at

around 28 knots so the Captain and Michael decided to find a more sheltered location for our mornings activities.

We sailed into Recherchefjord and found much calmer conditions in the bay. From the anchorage, it was a short zodiac ride to shore at Snatcherpynten where the staff were already waiting to explain the hiking options for the morning. The long hikers headed up to the moraines while the rest of us explored the tundra at lower level. The first place of interest was the big wooden cabin, Gjaevervilla, leaning downhill towards the sea. This was built in 1904 by a Norwegian Johannes Gjaever who had tourist business ideas for the area; hunting reindeer but this business never really prospered and



he sold the building to an English company, the Northern Exploration Company. NEC made claims to the area in 1918 hoping to mine the iron found in the rocks in this area but they never got further than the exploration stage and only got as far as storing the mine carts near the beach, which are still visible today.



From the hut, the long hikers headed up onto the moraines for a walk along the side of the hill, passing a few reindeer along the way and the medium hikers followed a similar route but stayed on the tundra where they found some Arctic flowers still flowering, especially the Moss campion. They also enjoyed some close-up views of two male reindeer, one of which had a large set of antlers ready for the rut, the mating season in a few weeks' time.

All the groups met along the beach and had an easy stroll back to the landing site before heading back on board for lunch. Even though this landing hadn't

been Plan A it was a very good substitute which allowed good views of reindeer and a leg stretch over the tundra.

Due to the wind conditions outside of the fjord system of Recherchefjord a decision was made between, the Captain and Expedition team to stay in the shelter of the bay for the afternoon rather than avoid missing a landing at Midterhuken due to high winds. We dropped anchor in the bay in front of Recherchefjord and shortly after lunch we went ashore for the last landing of the trip.

The staff ashore had secured a perimeter on the beach area leading to the lagoon and glacier so once ashore everyone was able to walk at their own pace and stop to take photos as often as they liked. Most people gathered



at the lagoon edge and enjoyed some photo time while others found a quiet spot to sit and enjoy the views, soaking up the last of the Arctic here on Svalbard.





At 3.15 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!

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!







Your Expedition Team!

## Day 10 – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 and as far as Kvitøya. We've seen Polar bears throughout our journey, from that first polar bear encountered by the hikers on Phippsøya to the relaxed male bear on the ice to the females and their cubs on the way to Kvitøya. 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!

#### Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1125 nautical miles Furthest North: 80°22.5' N 023°54.5' 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.

Longyearbyen - Embarkation

0

- 14th Julibukta Glacier/Reindeer/Arctic Fox
- Ny Alesund Most Northern Settlement
- Chermsideøya Beach graffiti and zodiac cruise
- North of Chermsideøya Blue Whales
- Phippsøya Landing evacuation due to a Polar Bear
- Vesle Tavleøya Polar Bear mother and cub
- Ice Edge Polar Bear

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- Ice Edge -Polar Bear mother and cub
- Kvitøya Polar Bear and Walrus/Zodiac cruise
- Bråsvellbreen Ship Cruise along the glacier
- Kapp Waldburg Polar Bear/Glacier/Zodiac Cruise Sundneset - Beautiful summer tundra/Hikes
- Storfjorden Fin Whales
- Storijorden Fin Whates
- 15. Storfjorden Fin Whales/Minke Whales/Dolphins
  - Burgerbukta Glacier/ Zodiac cruise
- 17. Gashamna Beluga Whales/ Hikes
- 18. Bamsebu Beluga Whale Remains
- 19. Snatcherpynten Reindeer
- 20. Recherchefjorden Glacier and Polar Plunge!
- 21. Longyearbyen Disembarkation

#### Arctic Wildlife Species list OTL13 12 August - 21 August 2017

Arctic Wildlife Species list OTL13 12 August - 21 August 2017												
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				NY ALE.	Phipp	sealer w	» / <sub>14</sub>	app M	iorden je	asham	mmide	· /
		Longreatmen	wibukt	misdeeve	Philosophia Vesie Tave Wal	sea Lelhuitavi	ellbreen	app Walde	etbuttal	therpyrit	on Longreaturen	
		Long	LATIN.	chert	Jeste	Sealt	Brave	Sudnu	BUIRE	Snatt	Longh	
English Name	Scientific	aug-12			aug-15			aug-18				
Red-throated diver	Gavia stellata		x					х				
Northern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialis	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Pink-footed Goose	Anser brachyrhynchus											
Barnacle Goose	Branta leucopsis		x				x	x				
Common Eider	Somateria mollissima		x	x		x		x	x			
Long-tailed Duck	Clangula hyemalis							x				
Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula						x					
Purple Sandpiper	Calidris maritima		x	x			x	x	x			
Pomarine Skua	Stercorarius pomarinus				x		x					l
Arctic Skua	Stercorarius parasiticus	x	x		x		x	x	x			
Glaucous Gull	Larus hyperboreus	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	х	x	x	
Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla		x	x	x	x	x	x	х	x		
Ivory Gull	Pagophila eburnea				x	x						
Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	х	x	x		x			х	x	x	
Brunnich's Guillemot	Uria lomvia		x	x	x	x	x					
Black Guillemot	Cepphus grylle		x	x	x		x	x	х	x		
Little Auk	Alle alle		x		x	x						
Puffin	Fratercula arctica	х	x		x				x			
Snow Bunting	Plectrophenax nivalis		x				x		х			

MAMMALS											
English	Scientific	aug-12	13-aug	aug-14	aug-15	aug-16	aug-17	aug-18	aug-19	aug-20	aug-21
Walrus	Odobenus rosmarus		x	x		x					
Bearded seal	Erignathus barbatus		x		x	x					
Ringed seal	Phoca hispida					x					
Harp seal	Pagophilus groenlandicus				x	x	x				
Common /Harbour seal	Phoca vitulina		x								
Minke Whale	Balaenoptera acutorostrata							x			
Blue Whale	Balaenopentera musculus			x							
Fin Whale	Balaenoptera physalus				x			x			
Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae										
White-beaked Dolphin	Lagenorhynchus albirostris							х			
Beluga	Dephinapterus leucas								x!		
Polar Bear	Ursus maritimus			x	x	x	x	х			
Arctic Fox	Alopex lagopus		x								
Spitsbergen Reindeer	Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus		x				x	x		x	



# PHOTOGRAPHY Contest 2017

# Your chance to win a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

EVERYONE KNOWS A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PHOTOS MIGHT NOW ALSO BE WORTH A **€ 1000 GIFT VOUCHER**?

#### Share your experience!

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

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

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



PRIZES



€ 500 gift voucher for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 250 gift voucher for Oceanwide Expeditions

#### UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/GALLERY

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







# TRAVEL WRITING Competition 2017

#### Your chance to win a € 1000 gift voucher for your next polar adventure.

FANCY YOURSELF AS A TRAVEL WRITER? ENTER OUR ANNUAL TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION AND YOU JUST MIGHT WIN YOURSELF A € 1000 GIFT VOUCHER FOR YOUR NEXT POLAR ADVENTURE.

#### Write about your experience!

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

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

#### Here's what you need to do:

- 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@oceanwideexpeditions.com. Either way, make sure you include your full name and e-mail address.
- 6. Spread the word!



# PRIZES



€ 500 gift voucher for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 250 gift voucher for Oceanwide Expeditions

#### 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一探险队员&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根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 在阿拉斯加出生及长大. 她成长在偏僻远离道路的小乡村, 冰川;鲸鱼;熊; 大山是她的后院.

自从 1997 年她是野外向导领队. 19 年在阿拉斯加, 最近 9 年在多家南北极探险公司当探险队员. 在空档时间她会带领小队伍在阿拉斯加野外做夜宿海上皮伐艇活动. 2001 年取得海洋生物学士学位. 从在不同的研究机构团体, 主要是座头鲸及灰鲸的研究.

她在艺术上也颇有才能,2009 出版过鸟类的书籍,将继续朝挑战此坚巨的任务.目前她常在慈善拍卖单位工作.另外花时间在阿拉斯加的小工作房,家附近滑雪,河钓, 采摘野菜(食用),这都是在美丽的极地分享着.

**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 geoecological 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 来自以俄罗斯北部的首府, 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!!

#### John Yeh Biography



#### John Yeh 叶佳京 背景资料

出在台湾,1991 年移居澳洲雪梨. 初中到大专院校时我参加"童子军"社团,在这期间我 学会了团队合作的重要性;露营;野外求生;足迹追踪技巧,野生动植物的辨识及应用. 服 过两年兵役,任职少尉分队长,带领了 50 位士官兵. 2013 参与两项戈壁徒步**項目**;中国 文化探索之旅及 2013 北京四中国际班高中新生拓展训练. 我热爱旅行,但更喜爱户外 挑战运动.

我已取得电机工程学士学位,在高级职业学校担任专业教师5年.有7年电视及计算机

显示器线路研发及设计经历. 担任过南欧7国区域业务经理及国际知名 IT 公司澳洲/新

西兰公司分公司总经理. 在这工作期间走访过 30 个国家及 7 大洲.

2013 转换职场跑道跨入旅行行业, 担任国内著名南北极旅行公司的资深国际业务顾问 及项目操作副总. 2014 年 7 月回到澳洲后申请修习旅行观光及活动管理等专业课程, 目

前已取得旅行观光从业人员 4 级及活动管理 3 级资格,同时也持有 户外急救证;冲锋艇

<u>驾照;来复枪持枪资格;IAATO 南极及南乔治亚岛导游证;国际海员证</u>.

2014年11月开始任职于 Oceanwide Expeditions (荷兰一家南北极探险旅行邮轮公司)

的探险队员.截至 2016 年 10 月, 已到过南极 14 次, 北极 2 次, 非常享受跟旅客互动及 经验分享. 2015 年 6 月开始代表 Oceanwide 探险邮轮公司负责中国区及东南亚区业务. 2015-2016 年在国内针对著名及专业旅行社已做过 20 场以上的南北极行程分享会及旅 行社业务及领队的培训.

#### 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 49

#### including

First Officer: Second Officer: Third Officer: Chief Engineer: Hotel Manager: Assist. Hotel Manager: Head Chef: Sous Chef: Ship's Physician:

**Yury Marin** Luis Oroceo Andy Mangilit **Aleksandr Bondarev** Zsuzsanna Varga Djengiz Fejzulai Heinz Hacker **Khabir Moraes** Tanya Bayer

[Russia] [Philippines] [Philippines] [Lithuanian] [Hungary] [Macedonia] [Austria] [India] [Germany]

#### and

Expedition Leader: Assist. Expedition Leader: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide: Expedition Guide:

**Michael Ginzburg Alison Liddle** Sara Jenner Shelli Ogilvy Expedition Guide: Alexander Romanovskiy **Arjen Drost** John Yeh Jerry Zao

[Russia/Germany] [Great Britain] [Great Britain] [USA] [Russia] [Netherlands] [Australia] [China]

## We welcome you on board!



August 12<sup>th</sup> – August 21<sup>st</sup> 2017

Day Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> 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 is 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).



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#### Day 2 Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 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, Polar Bear and AECO briefing so that we are ready to go ashore on Svalbard.
  \*English speaking guests please join us in the Lounge bar.
  \*Chinese guests please go to the Lecture Room. Thank you.
- 10.30 We hope to offer two activities at 14<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 13.00 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.

- 18.30 Daily recap in the lounge. We will recap the past day and look ahead to our plans for tomorrow.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.



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#### Day 3 Monday August 14<sup>th</sup> Chermsideøya and Phippsøya

- 7.30 Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader.
- 8.00 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour
- **TBA Chermsideøya.** This morning we hope to go ashore at Chermsideøya which is on Nordaustlandet. This is known as the 'Graffiti Beach' where words and symbols have been made using stones on the beach. These are historic remains, the first created in 1898 and the most recent in 1939 so please do not touch or step on the stones. Your guides will be there to help you.
- 12.30 A buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour.
- **TBA** After lunch, we hope to be able to take you ashore at Phippsøya. Where we hope to see Walrus hauled out on the beach next to an old trapper's hut and to take you on a hike 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 <u>all</u> groups will visit the Walrus during the afternoon.

#### 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 with your Expedition Team. This is a chance for us to look back on the past days and look ahead to our plans for tomorrow. Join us with a pre-dinner drink.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.



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## Day 4 Tuesday August 15<sup>th</sup> Exploration in the Pack 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 north 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 and enjoy the experience of being in the pack ice. By this time the guides eyes will be popping out but we will continue our search.....

We may schedule a lecture or an <u>'lcy Activity'</u> during the afternoon so please listen carefully for any announcements over the PA system. Thank you!

- 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!



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#### Day 5 Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup> Kvitøya

This will be a real expedition day in an area that is seldom visited, even during the summer months. It is a unique privilege to visit such a remote location. Any landings will be dependent on weather, sea conditions and wildlife (fluffy, white things!) so please stand by for announcements regarding our activities today. Thank you!

- 7.30 A gentle wake-up call.....! Good Morning Polar Explorers!!
- 8.00 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour.
- TBA As soon as we arrive at Kvitøya we will try to land in Kraemerpynten and explore this corner of this unique island. It is known for the abundance of female walrus and its calves as well as for potential predators.

By the way, we hope you brought your visa for Russia, as you can look over the Russian border from Kvitøya, if your binoculars are strong enough.

- 13.00 Buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour.
- TBA After Lunch we would like to land on Andréenesset, the location where the participants of the Andrée expedition perished. We will visit the remains of the camp and the memorial.
- 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!



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#### Day 6 Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> Bråsvellbreen and Vibebukta

- 7.30 Your wake-up call! You can record it and take it home with you....!!
- 8.00 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour.

**Bråsvellbreen.** During the morning, we will ship 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. Basically it's a lot of ice!! There are often waterfalls flowing over the ice cliff from a height of 30 metres. It is an impressive sight so wrap up warm and enjoy the views from deck!

- 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 on Nordaustland. We hope to be able to offer walking options as well as try to get close to Walrus, which are often found along this stretch of coastline.

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

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



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#### Day 7 Friday August 18<sup>th</sup> Sundneset and Kapp Lee

7.00 An earlier wake-up call....!!

- 7.30 Breakfast buffet is served in the dining room for one hour.
- ~8.45 **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 and seabird breeding colonies 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 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!

- 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 historic location. This is a regular haul out for Walrus and there are historic Pomor remains near the landing beach. There is regular walrus haul out spot on the main beach near the historic huts and we will all visit the walrus during our landing time. There is rich tundra along the coast and reindeer can often be seen.

**Long Hike:** This will be an extended walk to gain some height and enjoy views across the Freemansundet. This group will visit the walrus at the end of the walk.

**Medium Hike**: This will along the lower slopes of the tundra. This group will visit the walrus at the end of the walk.

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

19.00 **Special Arctic Dinner** is served...... Bon appetite!



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#### Day 8 Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

- TBA **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. The area can be good for seals on the ice and polar bears are occasionally seen here.
- 12.30 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 prelanding briefing or over the PA system.
- 18.30 Re-cap. Please join the expedition team in the bar to look back on the day's events and find out our plans for tomorrow.
- 19.00 Dinner is served! Enjoy your Meal!!



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#### Day 9 Sunday August 20<sup>th</sup> Bamsebu and Midterhuken in Bellsund

- 7.30 Wakeup call. Good Morning!
- 8.00 Breakfast is served in the dining room for one hour.
- ~9.00 **Bamsebu.** We hope to take you ashore near a hut known as Bamsebu. In the past this area was used for whaling for Beluga whales and all along the shore we will see beluga whale bones that were left by the whalers. Please do not touch the bones or approach the area too closely. The area also has rich tundra vegetation and Reindeer are often seen here so we will explore the coast and tundra during our visit. Please standby for announcement regarding the hiking options. The walks will all be at low level!
- 12.30 Buffet lunch will be available in the dining room for one hour.
- 14.30 **Midterhuken.** For our final landing, we hope to take you ashore at Midterhuken where there are large cliffs with thousands of Kittiwakes and Guillemots nesting. We sometimes see Arctic foxes here so keep looking carefully for these while we are ashore. We will also offer the chance for a Polar Plunge at the end of the landing! We will bring the towels, you bring the insanity!!
- 18.00 Re-cap and Captain's Cocktails. Please join the expedition team in the bar to look back on our expedition here in Spitsbergen and toast our Arctic voyage.
- 19.00 Farewell Dinner is served! Enjoy your Meal!!



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#### Day 10 Monday August 21<sup>st</sup> Disembarkation

07.00 Your final wake-up call.

07.30 Breakfast is available in the dining room for 1 hour.

Please put your large check in baggage outside your room before going to breakfast. We will take your bags to the pier. Also, please leave your room keys at Reception.

#### Make sure you have all of your belongings with you.

- ~08.45 **Disembarkation.** At this time please make your way down the gangway to the pier. Please check on the pier that you have all your luggage and bring it to the correct bus. Your luggage will be stored and meet you at the airport in the afternoon. The buses will take you to Svalbard Butikken in Longyearbyen or to your hotel.
- 09.00 The buses will take you to town.
- 11.00 **Airport Transfer for Afternoon Flight DY397 at 12.40 on August 21<sup>st</sup>** The same 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 will have to arrange your own taxi!
- 13.00 **Airport Transfer for Afternoon Flight SK4425 at 14.45 on August 21<sup>st</sup>** The same 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 will have to arrange your own taxi!