



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

North Spitsbergen – Polar Bear Special

on board

m/v Ortelius

May 29 – June 5, 2018



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 12 knots and one diesel engine generating 3200 kW.



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Captain Mika Appel and his international crew of 51

including

First Officer:	Toni Salo	[Finland]
Second Officer:	Matei Mocanu	[Romania]
Third Officer:	Igor Nazarov	[Russia]
Third Officer:	Andy Mangilit	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Hotel Manager:	Sebastian Duma	[Romania]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Lilian van Meurs	[Poland]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Sous Chef:	Stefan Zivojinovic	[Serbia]
Ship's Physician:	Veronique Verhoeven	[Belgium]

and

Expedition Leader:	Rinie van Meurs	[Netherlands]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Christophe Gouraud	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Mick Brown	[Ireland/Wales]
Expedition Guide:	Szymon Niezabitowski	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Benjamin Koster	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Sandra Petrowitz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Aad Wever	[Netherlands]

welcome you on board!

Day 1 – May 29, 2018

Embarkation, Longyearbyen

GPS position at 1600: 78°13.7'N, 015°36.1'E

Air Temp: 4°C Weather: cloudy Wind: SSE 3



Northward ho! We arrived at the pier in Longyearbyen where *Ortelius*, our home for the next week, was already waiting for us – as were members of the Expedition Team who welcomed us. From around 4pm, boarding started, and we were soon checked in by our Hotel Manager Sebastian and his assistant Lilian. Our luggage had already found its way into our cabins, so we had some free time to get unpacked, settle in and meet our fellow adventurers. Shortly afterwards we gathered in the Lecture Room to be officially welcomed by the Hotel Manager and to attend the mandatory safety briefing followed by a safety drill. Wearing our



big orange lifejackets we mustered in the Bar and proceeded to the top deck for a look into the lifeboats. Meanwhile, *Ortelius* had left the pier, and so we were on our way out of Adventfjorden and into Isfjorden. Before dinner, we got to know Captain Mika Appel as well as the members of the Expedition Team and raised our glasses for a toast to the voyage. Hungry after a long day of travels, we flocked to the Dining Room – the first of many delicious meals was waiting for us!

Day 2 – May 30, 2018

Liefdefjord: Andøyane & Monacobreen

GPS position at 0800: 79°48.9'N, 010°41.0'E

Air Temp: 5°C Sea Temp: 3°C Weather: clear Wind: SW 2 Sea state: calm



After a good night's sleep we found ourselves at the end of our northbound leg off the "Spitse Bergen" ("Pointed Mountains"), the name the Dutch discoverer Willem Barentsz gave to these lands. In the morning the mandatory how-to-behave-in-the-Arctic and Polar Bear safety briefings were given, along with instructions on travelling and landing with our sturdy Zodiacs.



Turning eastward and then southward into the Woodfjord we reached the Liefdefjord. Zodiacs were launched and we set off for a zodiac cruise around Andøyane, the "Duck islands". We found Eider ducks and a couple of King Eiders, Long-tailed Ducks were seen and Skuas,

a Seal showed up briefly. After we had got back to *Ortelius* we cruised down into the Liefdefjord towards the magnificent Monaco Glacier. Splendid sunlight, ice in the fjord and the view made for a wonderful evening.



Day 3 – May 31, 2018

Hinlopenstretet

GPS position at 0800: 79°35.5'N, 018°32.7'E

Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 2°C Weather: overcast Wind: SSE 6 Sea state: slight

During the night we sailed towards Hinlopenstretet, the body of water in between Spitsbergen (the main island) and Nordaustlandet. Shortly after breakfast we passed Alkefjellet, a famous bird cliff consisting of a characteristic blackish volcanic Dolerite intrusion within brightly coloured marine layers. Flocks of Little Auks, Brunnich's and Common Guillemots were observed nearby.

We continued our cruise southwards in sunshine and good visibility. In most places the ice coverage was rather sparse, not a preferable habitat for Polar Bears. Nevertheless, the Expedition Staff and many of us were scanning the area continuously with the help of binoculars, telescopes and telelenses. For those who needed a break from looking for the bear, Bill's lecture about whaling and sealing in the Arctic was a welcome change of topic just before lunch.



In the afternoon it started to snow and the visibility decreased incredibly fast. Sandra gave an interesting talk, providing us with ideas and suggestions on how to potentially improve our photography.

In the evening Expedition Leader Rinie and Captain Mika decided to stay in the fast ice of Bjørnsund close to Wilhelmøya. Shortly after *Ortelius* had been 'parked' in the ice this turned out to be a splendid decision: A mother and two cubs were spotted around 7 kms away from the ship. Everybody was excited –

despite the chilly wind we dashed for the outer decks to see the bears. They came a bit closer (still far away) for a while and then slowly walked away from the ship, disappearing in snow squalls and fog.



Day 4 – June 1, 2018

Hinlopenstretet

GPS position at 0800: 78°55.7'N, 020°49.2'E

Air Temp: 0°C Sea Temp: 1°C Weather: fog/snow Wind: SE 3 Sea state: ice



In the morning the mother Polar Bear and her two cubs had disappeared. Visibility had turned typically polar, i.e., very bad. We turned East and went towards the ice again. At ten o'clock Aad gave a lecture about present-day Spitsbergen. Just after the lecture, in an example of excellent timing, a Walrus presented itself on an ice floe, accompanied by an Ivory Gull. *Ortelius* approached both very slowly and carefully allowing us to take excellent photographs. After a while another Walrus appeared on port side, having a look at the ship from in between the ice floes but disappeared as quickly as it had come.

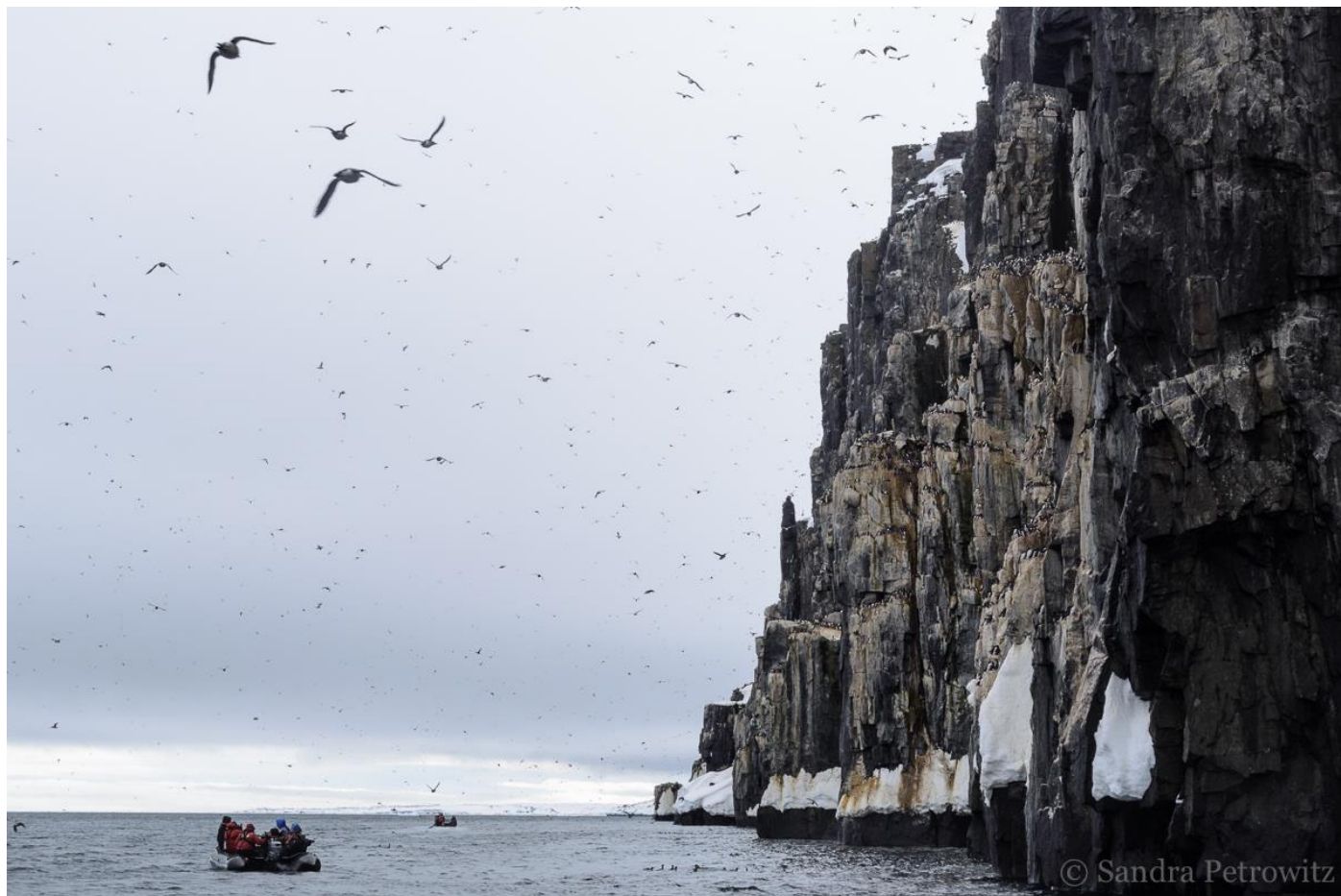
Staying near and in the ice did not reveal the elusive Polar Bears, although we did spot fresh Polar Bear tracks on the ice floes. *Ortelius* turned around, sailing up Hinlopenstretet in a north-easterly direction past the small island of Franzøya towards Wahlenbergfjorden where we were to stay the night.



Day 5 – June 2, 2018 Alkefjellet & Wahlenbergfjord

GPS position at 0800: 79°34.6'N, 018°39.1'E

Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 3°C Weather: overcast Wind: N 2 Sea state: smooth



At wake-up call we found ourselves off Alkefjellet. By 09.15 the first group had left *Ortelius*. How we loved the smell of ammonia in the morning! The zodiacs slowly passed the rocks inhabited by an estimated sixty thousand pairs of breeding Brunnich's Guillemots. Polar Foxes were seen, Barnacle Geese, Kittywakes, Black Guillemots, while Glaucous Gulls were feasting on the carcasses of dead birds. By 12.15 all of us had returned to *Ortelius*.





The afternoon saw us back in Wahlenbergfjorden where two Polar Bears were spotted. From the interplay between the two it turned out that they were trying to court and seduce each other, with the female being somewhat less active than the male, at times even trying to chase the male away – how very human it all looked!

It was an event very rarely seen by an expedition. In the course of the afternoon the bears came a bit closer to the ship, but we were not to witness the “conclusion” of this boy-meets-girl game: as it may last up to a week we unfortunately had to leave. Around four o’clock another Polar Bear presented itself, but again at a distance. During the recap Rinie gave us more details on the reproduction



process of Polar Bears. After dinner we slowly made our way out of the ice and towards our destination for the next day: the northwest corner of Spitsbergen.

Day 6 – June 3, 2018

Raudfjord & Smeerenburgfjord

GPS position at 0800: 79°44.6'N, 012°07.7'E

Air Temp: 3°C Sea Temp: 5°C Weather: overcast Wind: N 3 Sea state: smooth



In the morning we were anchored off Alicehamna in Raudfjorden. Unfortunately, a planned snow-shoe walk had to be cancelled as fog and snow had reduced visibility to the extent that we would end up in the extremely dangerous situation of being unable to spot Polar Bears in time: in the Arctic, Nature rules!

In the afternoon we made a landing at Amsterdamøya – a historic site for Dutchmen as, from approximately 1614 to 1645, it was the main whaling station for the Dutch so-called Chambers, companies from a number of towns that invested in whaling ships. The remains of the blubber ovens can still be seen: the black remains of the whaling oil, mixed with sand, called “bacon concrete”. Some ovens are quite close to the seaside and run the risk of being washed away by the sea.

Two groups were made, the ‘beach crawlers’ and the hikers. The beach crawlers heard about the history of Amsterdamøya, the hikers observed various kinds of wildlife and stretched their legs while walking along the shoreline.

Upon returning to Ortelius we heard that a BBQ had been organised on our



helicopter deck – against the background of the majestic scenery of snow-clad mountains in a bay near the whaling station we enjoyed the good bbq’ing by our galley staff.

Day 7 – June 4, 2018

Tordenskjoldbukta & Poolepynten

GPS position at 0800: 78°16.9'N, 012°50.0'E

Air Temp: 7°C Sea Temp: 4°C Weather: overcast Wind: SE 3 Sea state: calm



In perfectly calm conditions we sailed into Forlandsundet between Prins Karls Forland and the main island of Spitsbergen. After breakfast we landed in Tordenskjoldbukta, a bay sheltered by rocky outcrops on which Glaucus Gulls and Barnacle geese were seen. We split into three groups, and the hikers took off first with Bill and Szymon, covering quite some terrain across the mossy tundra and onto little ridges from where great



views were to be had. The medium-walk group with Christophe, Mick, Benjamin and Aad managed to get fairly close to some Reindeer, one of which was a calf of only a couple of days old – a very special experience! The ‘Leisurelies’ with Sandra explored the surroundings of the landing site where they found the first Purple Saxifrage of the season, reindeer antlers, a selection of Lichen, had great views over the shoreline and precious minutes of Arctic Silence – to all the better hear the song of the Snow Buntings.



When everybody was back on board, *Ortelius* sailed towards the other side of Forlandsundet, to a place called Poolepynten. This sandy spit is a favourite Walrus haul-out site, and this time we got lucky: The animals were home, resting peacefully in the sand and partly on top of each other. We split into two groups of which one took a stroll while the other approached the huge brown sausages on the beach. They did not do much except scratch themselves, occasionally burp and smell, which is very typical of Walrus – and as we observed, they are extremely good at what they are doing.



After a great time at Poolepynten we set course towards Longyearbyen. Of course, at some stage we also had to face the more or less pleasant tasks of settling our ship's accounts and return the trusted rubber boots and Zodiac lifejackets. At 19.00 we gathered in the Bar for a toast to the successful voyage. Soon afterwards, we flocked to the Dining Room for our last dinner on board, all the while we were keeping at least half an eye out for Whales and Puffins.



Day 8 – June 5, 2018

Longyearbyen

GPS position at 0800: 78°13.8'N, 015°36.2'E

Way too soon our Arctic was now coming to an end – and what a remarkable week it had been! Around midnight *Ortelius* arrived at the pier in Longyearbyen, and those passengers leaving on the early-morning flight disembarked the vessel. All others enjoyed a quiet night in their cabins.

When for the last time Rinie woke us up in the morning, we put our big luggage in the corridors as asked, so the crew could take it off the ship for us. After the last breakfast on board, it was time to say goodbye. Goodbye to our ship and its crew and staff, goodbye to our new friends. Arrangements were made to stay in touch and farewells were said. We could look back on an impressive trip, and all of us had many memories of wildlife and spectacular scenery during our days in the ice, our Zodiac-cruising activities and our shore landings. Finally, we handed in the keys to our cabins, picked up our luggage from the pier and made our way into town or to the airport for our onward journeys. May we meet again somewhere, someday!

Thank you all for joining us on this Arctic adventure, for your great company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed: 850 Nautical Miles

**On behalf of
Oceanwide Expeditions,
Captain Mika Appel,
Expedition Leader Rinie van Meurs,
Hotel Manager Sebastian Duma
and all the crew and staff,
it has been a pleasure travelling with you.**



PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2018

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**?

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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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for Oceanwide Expeditions



€ 500 gift voucher

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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 November 30, 2018. The photography contest runs from April, 30 until October, 30 2018.

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



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

TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION 2018

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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 titles and subtitles to the story.
3. Create a hyperlink or two inside of your post. 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 by completing the entry form "Share your story" (<https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/customer-story/create>) **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!**



PRIZES



€ 1000
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ENTRIES CLOSE OCTOBER 30

Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by November 30, 2018

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



Raudfjord

Andøyane

Smeerenburg

Wahlenbergfjord

Monaco
Glacier

Poolepynten

Tordenskjoldbukta

Longyearbyen

Alkefjellet

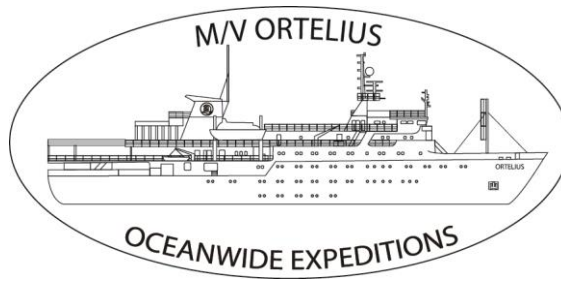
Pack-ice
Hinlopenstretet

Birds and Mammals of Spitsbergen - May 29th to June 5th, 2018

English Name	Latin	German	French	Dutch	29th.	30th.	31st.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eislaucher	Plongeon Imbrin	Ijsduiker								
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sternlaucher	Plongeon catmarin	Roodkeel duiker		x				x	x	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Noordse stormvogel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Atlantic Gannet	<i>Sula bassana</i>	Bassitoelpel	Fou du basson	Jan van Gent				x				
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnebelgans	Oie à bec court	Kleine rietgans		x						
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branla leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	Brandgans		x		x	x	x	x	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grauwe gans							x	
Brent Goose	<i>Branla bernicla</i>	Ringelgans	Bernache cravant	Rotgans								
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Schneegans	Oie des neiges	Sneeuwgans								x
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Reiherente	Fuligule morillon	Kulieend								
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	Eider eend	x	x	x		x	x	x	
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachleiderente	Eider à tête grise	Konings eider		x						
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticla stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Eider de Steller	Stellers eider								
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	Ilseend		x						
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Macreuse noire	Zwarte zee-eend								
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	Sneeuw hoen								
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenfeifer	Grand Gravelot	Bontbek plevier						x		
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling	Drieteen strandloper								
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	Paarse strandloper						x	x	
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche	Kanoetstrandloper						x		
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable	Bonte strandloper								
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Rotschenkel	Chevalier gambette	De tureluur								
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Steinwäzler	Tournepieire à collier	Steenloper						x		
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorsühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	Rosse franjepoot		x					x	
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalarope à bec étroit	Grauwe franjepoot								
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmowe	Labbe pomarin	Middelste jager								
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarolzerraub-mowe	Labbe parasite	Kleine jager		x		x		x	x	
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmowe	Labbe à longue queue	Kleinste jager								
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	Kleine jager		x		x	x	x		
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmowe	Mouette de Sabine	Vorkstaart meeuw						x		
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismowe	Goéland bourgmestre	Grote Burgemeester	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Iceland gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Polarmowe	Goéland arctique	Kleine burgemeester								
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermowe	Goéland argenté	Zilvermeeuw								
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmowe	Goéland marin	Grote mantelmeeuw							x	
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmowe	Mouette tridactyle	Drieteenmeeuw	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	Rosenmowe	Mouette de Ross	Rossmeeuw								
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmowe	Mouette blanche	Ivoor meeuw					x			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Noordse stern		x	x			x	x	x
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottelumme	Guillemot de Troil	Zeekoet								
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brunnich	Dikbekzeekoet	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Grylleiste	Guillemot à miroir	Zwarte zeekoet	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbenlaucher	Mergule nain	Kleine alk	x	x	x	x				
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Papegaai duiker	x						x	
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Plectrophenax des neiges		x	x						x

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch									
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	Walrus									x
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	Baardrob		x	x	x	x				
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	Ringelrob						x			
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	Zadelrob									
Hooded seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon	Klappmuts									
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	Gewone zeehond									
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	Dwergvinvis									
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	Blauwe vinvis	x								
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	Gewone vinvis									
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	Bultrug								x	
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Gronlandwal	Baleine du Groenland	Groenlandse walvis									
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwal	Narval	Narwal									
Orca (Killer Whale)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal (Orca)	Orque	Zwaardwalvis									
Beluga	<i>Dezhnevius leucas</i>	Weisswal	Beluga	Beloeaga									
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	Ijsbeer			x		x				
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	Poolvos					x				
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Spitzbergen-Rentier	Renne du Spitzberg	Rendier		x					x		



North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

May 29th – June 5th, 2018

Day 1, May 29, Monday: boarding and departure

WELCOME ABOARD!

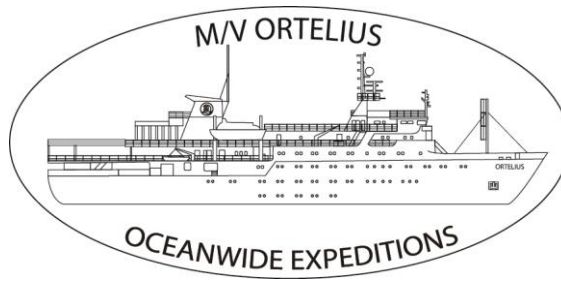
Luggage will be delivered to your cabin as soon as possible. Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage!

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

- +/-17.00 Welcome briefing in the lecture room (deck 3, forward). The expedition leader and the hotel manager will introduce you to life on board the *Ortelius*. This will be followed by a mandatory 'Safety at Sea' briefing and abandon ship drill.
- +/-18:00 Departure of the *Ortelius*. Please stay off the bridge during the departure and while we are sailing out of port Longyearbyen. It will be announced when the bridge is open for visitors.
- 19:00 Please join us for a welcome drink and meet the captain in the lounge bar on deck 6. We will also introduce the expedition staff and discuss the plan for the next two days.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining room (Deck 4 behind reception).

During the night we'll be sailing in northerly direction, along the west coast of Spitsbergen. Our target for tomorrow is to reach as far east as possible. It's here in the east where we hope to enter the pack ice the following day (31 May) in search of Polar Bears.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you feel the movements of the vessel. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors jamming!



North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

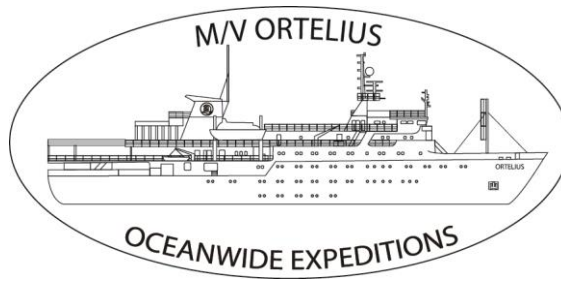
May 29th – June 5th, 2018

Day 2, May 30, Tuesday: North of Spitsbergen

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 07.30 | Wake-up call |
| 08.00 – 09.00 | Breakfast. |
| 09.30 | MANDATORY BRIEFING! – Please join your expedition leader in the lecture room (Deck 3). You will be introduced to important information regarding Polar Bear safety, Zodiac operation and behaviour ashore. |
| 11.00 | You will be called by deck number to collect your rubber boots and life vests (for Zodiac) in the Lecture room. Bring your thick socks to try the rubber boots! |
| 12.30 | Lunch. |
| TBA | Weather and ice permitting we hope to explore the Liefdefjord. We expect to offer a Zodiac cruise around a group of islands in search of wildlife. |
| 18.30 | Recap and information on following day's plan in the bar. |
| 19.00 | Dinner. |

After dinner, we offer a ship cruise along the beautiful Monaco Glacier, one of the most scenic in the area. Be on deck!

TBA = To Be Announced



North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

May 29th – June 5th, 2018

Day 3, May 31, Thursday: Hinlopen Strait

07.00 Wake-up call

07.30 – 08.30 Breakfast.

Today we will explore the sea ice in the Hinlopen Strait for wildlife. Depending on wildlife sighting and weather, a lecture program will be announced.

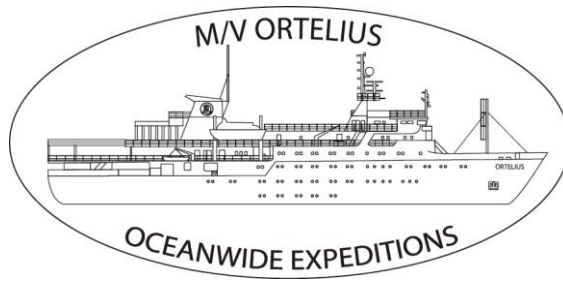
Be out on deck with the expedition staff and help us finding animals!

12.30 Lunch.

We keep on searching!!!

18.30 Recap and information on following day's plan in the bar.

19.00 Dinner.



North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

May 29th – June 5th, 2018

Day 4, June 1, Friday: Hinlopen Strait

07.00 Wake-up call

07.30 – 08.30 Breakfast.

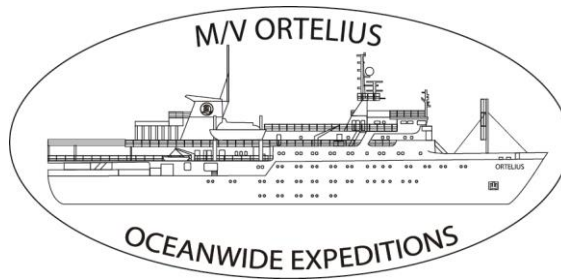
We don't give up! Today we will explore the sea ice further south in the Hinlopen Strait. Depending on wildlife sighting and weather, a lecture program will be announced. As usual, the more eyes on deck the better chance to spot animals. So be out on deck with the expedition staff and help us finding them!

12.30 Lunch.

We keep on searching!!!

18.30 Recap and information on following day's plan in the bar.

19.00 Dinner.



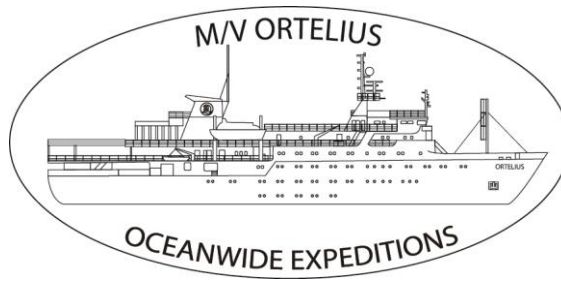
North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

May 29th – June 5th, 2018

Day 5, June 2, Saturday: Hinlopenstretet & Palanderbukta

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 07.00 | Wake-up call |
| 07.30 – 08.30 | Breakfast. |
| +/- 09.00 | Depending on weather and ice condition we would like to offer you a zodiac cruise at Alkefjellet. This is a spectacular bird cliff colony where about 60.000 pairs of Brünnich's guillemots breed. |
| 12.30 | Lunch. |
| TBA | During lunch we will be sailing across the Hinlopen Strait to reposition the ship in a beautiful bay called Palanderbukta on the west coast of Nordaustlandet. We will search for wildlife along the fast ice which is still connected to land. Be out on deck as we hope to have good views on the true Polar desert! |
| 18.30 | Recap and information on following day's plan in the bar. |
| 19.00 | Dinner. |

TBA = To Be Announced



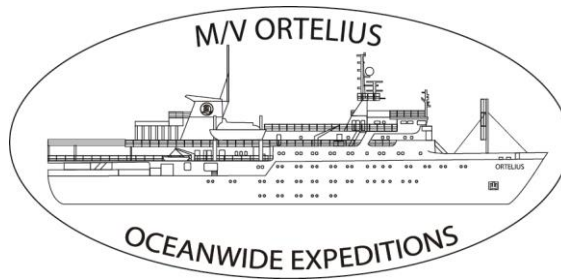
North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

May 29th – June 5th, 2018

Day 6, June 3, Sunday: Raudfjord & Smeerenburg

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 07.30 | Wake-up call |
| 08.00 – 09.00 | Breakfast. |
| +/- 09.45 | Depending on weather and ice condition we would like to offer you a landing in the scenic Raudfjord. |
| 12.30 | Lunch. |
| TBA | During lunch we will be sailing around the northwest corner of Spitsbergen to reposition the ship at the southeast tip of Amsterdamøya where we hope to meet more wildlife. This place, named Smeerenburg, is also famous for its remains of blubber ovens from the whaling era in the 17 th Century. |
| 18.30 | Recap and information on following day's plan in the bar. |
| 19.00 | Dinner. |

TBA = To Be Announced



North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

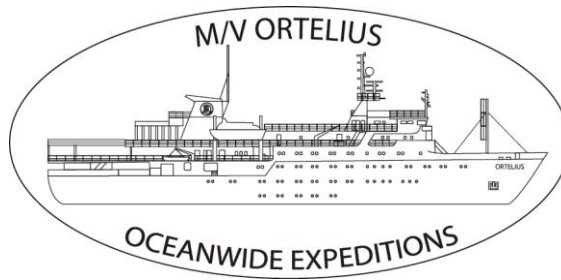
May 29th – June 5th, 2018

Day 7, June 4, Monday: Tordenskjoldbukta & Poolepynten

- 07.00 Wake-up call
- 07.30 – 08.30 Breakfast.
- +/- 09.00 Depending on weather and ice conditions we would like to offer you a landing at Tordenskjoldbukta. The flat open tundra there offers a great opportunity for wildlife such as Reindeers, Geese, Eiders or Divers. Depending on the snow condition ashore we may use snow shoes!
- 12.30 Lunch.
- After lunch you will be called by deck number to settle your account at reception.**
- TBA During lunch we will be sailing through the Forlandsundet to reposition the ship at Poolepynten, on the eastern side of Prins Karls Forland. There we really hope that the walrus will be at home.
- TBA After your last outing, you will be called by deck number to return your rubber boots and your life jackets (the ones you were using for zodiac operations).
- +/-19.00 Farewell cocktail in the bar!
- 19.30 Dinner.
- After dinner, for those of you that fly early morning (flight SK4497), please put your check-in luggage in the corridor. Staff will take it to the pier where you can pick it up when disembarking.**

The ship will proceed towards Longyearbyen, where we plan to arrive at 23.30 in the evening.

- +/- 23.45 **For those of you that fly early morning (flight SK4497), you will be called in your cabin by phone.**
- +/- 00.30 **Disembarkation for passengers flying at 02.30 on flight SK4497. A bus has been arranged and will shuttle you from the pier to the airport.**
- TBA = To Be Announced**



North Spitsbergen Polar Bear Special

May 29th – June 5th, 2018

Day 8, June 5, Tuesday: Longyearbyen, disembarkation

07.30 Wake-up call.

08.00-09.00 Breakfast

Please put your check-in luggage in the corridor near your cabin, at the latest at 7.30. The crew and staff will carry it down to the pier.

Please leave your cabin key cards as well as your key card plastic holders at reception.

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

Buses have been arranged to take you to Longyearbyen.

- If you go to the airport later today, a luggage truck has been arranged that will go directly to the airport with your check-in luggage. Put your check-in luggage in the truck; keep your hand luggage with you in the bus. The bus will drop you in the town centre near Svalbard Butikken. At 13.00 you will be picked up at the same place by the bus that will take you to the airport.
- If you go to a hotel, take ALL your luggage with you in the bus. You will be dropped in the town centre near the Svalbard Butikken.

In any case, please check that you take all your luggage from the pier and drop it at the right vehicle.

Dear passengers, we enjoyed having you on board. Have a nice and safe journey home. Hopefully we meet again somewhere, sometime, in the Polar regions!

Farewell!