



The Hondius Maiden Voyage  
was a case of  
'Having your cake and eating it!'  
From excellent sailing to exciting  
sightings of porpoise & whales



# Atlantic Odyssey- Maiden voyage

*Hondius*

3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019 - 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019



*Hondius* was built in 2019 by Brodosplit, in Croatia, as an expedition vessel for Oceanwide Expeditions. Now the ship is sailing as a 196-passenger vessel with 83 cabins. *Hondius* is 107.6 m long, 17.6 m wide and has a maximum draught of 5.3 m with an exceptionally high ice class of PC6. *Hondius* has a top speed of 15 knots and 3 diesel generators. The *Hondius* sails on low sulphur marine gas oil (LSMGO). Our beautiful, modern vessel carries 369 m<sup>3</sup> of fresh water and has a water plant producing 70 m<sup>3</sup> per day. The *Hondius* is everything you can dream of for icy, adventurous, oceanwide expeditions!



**Captain Alexey Nazarov**

and his international crew of 72 members including:

First Officer:	<b>Andre Klein</b>	[Germany]
Second Officer:	<b>Romanas Vicas</b>	[Lithuania]
Staff officer:	<b>Toni Salo</b>	[Finland]
Third Officer:	<b>Igor Nazarov</b>	[Russia]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Sebastian Alexandru</b>	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Michael Frauendorfer</b>	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	<b>Jhonny van Velzen</b>	[Dutch]
Head Chef: Sous Chef:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	[Germany]
Ship's Physician:	<b>Ninette van Es</b>	[Dutch]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Jan Belgers</b>	[Dutch]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	<b>Adam Turner</b>	[U.K.]
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Exp. Leader	<b>Iain Rudkin</b>	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Tobias Brehm (Geologist)</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Miriam Vermeij (Naturalist)</b>	[Dutch]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Marcel Paul (Naturalist)</b>	[Dutch]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Sara Jenner (Photographer)</b>	[UK]

Expedition Guide:	<b>Szymon Niezabitowski (Biologist)</b>	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>RosalieSteffen (Mar.scientist)</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Pierre Gallego (Vet. cetaceans)</b>	[Luxemburg]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Laurence Dyke (Glaciologist)</b>	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Bill Smith (Artist)</b>	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Andreas Alexander (Glaciologist)</b>	[Germany]

## Welcome you on board!

Many of us greeted the *Hondius* as it sailed into Vlissingen harbour on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2019. The Oceanwide family and friends welcomed their newborn addition to the family. It was a lovely celebration and all were excited to join this maiden voyage from Vlissingen via Scotland and Jan Mayen to Svalbard. For the staff and employees, the delivery of the *Hondius* has been a dream come true.



## Day 1: 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019 Embarkation: Vlissingen

*'A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step' -Lao Tzu*

GPS position at 18:00: 002°54,9'E/ 52°06,01'N

Air temp.: 21°C  
Sea state: calm

Sea temp.: 18°C  
Wind: W-2

Swell: 0 m  
Weather: overcast

All of us were excited to finally meet the *Hondius*. Therefore, it felt more like writing a new chapter in an old book, rather than simply joining a cruise.

We had all undertaken long journeys to join the expedition cruise from Vlissingen, via



Aberdeen, Fair Isle, and Jan Mayen to Svalbard. Guests and Staff alike, from different backgrounds and countries including the Netherlands, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, Malta, France and Switzerland went on long flights, bus rides and train rides with the same goal, to meet the ship waiting in Vlissingen harbor aiming join an unforgettable cruise of a lifetime. The *Hondius* and some members of the

expedition team and crew came all the way from Croatia to Vlissingen to take us on this special, adventurous voyage.

Our captain, expedition leader, assistant expedition leaders, the expedition team, and the hotel staff were very happy to welcome us onboard this beautiful vessel which captivates with its Croatian charm.

We were given a welcome drink before being introduced to the safety procedures onboard and familiarised with the plans for the upcoming voyage. Jan Belgers, our expedition leader also notified us that we, the guests, were entirely responsible for the weather. After a mandatory safety drill, we enjoyed our first lovely dinner (many more to come) in the restaurant, while getting to know our fellow passengers.



At 6 pm we set sail, bound for the northern archipelago of Svalbard, the realm of the polar bear, the king of the Arctic. We hope to discover different plants and birds together with stunning, pristine landscapes. Our first night at sea was calm and peaceful, and was accompanied by a mesmerising sunset. The gentle movements of the ocean swayed us to sleep.

Many of us dreamed of birds and flowers that night, eagerly awaiting the sights and sounds of our



expedition cruise. Some of us slept a little restlessly because we were worried about our 'weather fairy skills'. Rose, one of the expedition guides told us that they call the weather presenters on TV a 'weather fairy' in Germany and we have to believe what



they tell us onboard. What an exciting day!



## Day 2: 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Day at Sea

*'Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony' Mahatma Gandhi*

GPS position at 12:00: 000°53,2'E, 54°27,5'N

GPS position at 18:00: 000°43,8'E, 55°27,2'N

Air temp.: 4°C  
Sea state: moderate

Sea temp.: 13.4°C  
Wind: W-2

Swell: 2 m  
Weather: overcast

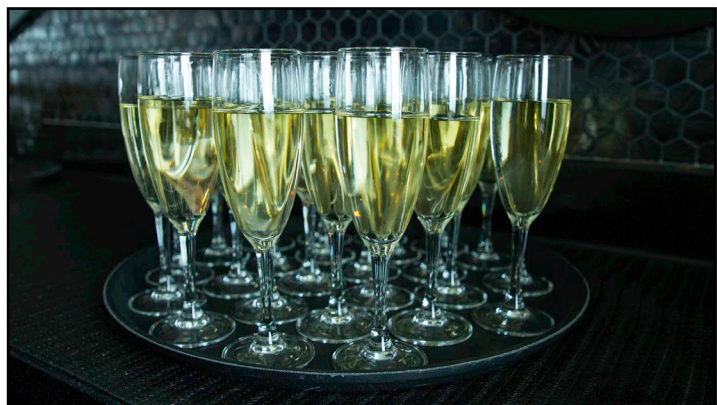
We were slightly startled to be roused by a wake-up call. Dreamland was beautiful, awakening was accompanied by a shock of being late for work until we realised that we were on an expedition cruise. Immediately, a smile covered our faces and we couldn't wait to get out of bed to be out on deck, to discover our new holiday home for the next ten days.



After breakfast, our expedition leader invited us to the lounge for an obligatory AECO and zodiac briefing. We were familiarised with the environmental protocols to follow while visiting the remote archipelago of Svalbard and other sensitive. The presentation was followed by an introduction to the team which was comprised of 14 staff members from different backgrounds with special expertise.

We quickly learned that Bill, the Scottish Artist and zodiac master, was even crazier than he looks. He came dressed in a kilt, showing us his bare legs while grinning at us with a big smile. We immediately knew that he was fun and serious business at the same time.

Sara the photographer helped the less photographically-skilled amongst us feel relaxed by ensuring us that she would take care of collecting photographic memories of our voyage. Laurence the glaciologist onboard filled us with excitement for encountering the sea ice. Andreas and Tobias, the Bavarian half German scientists made us look forward to his interesting lectures regarding the changing climate and the geology of the Arctic. We were also introduced to Rosalie the marine scientist, the Dutch naturalists Miriam and Marcel, and the vet and marine mammologist Pierre. Finally we met our assistant expedition leaders Ian and Adam, and our expedition leader Jan. In addition, we also got to know the lovely, Dutch ships doctor Ninette who





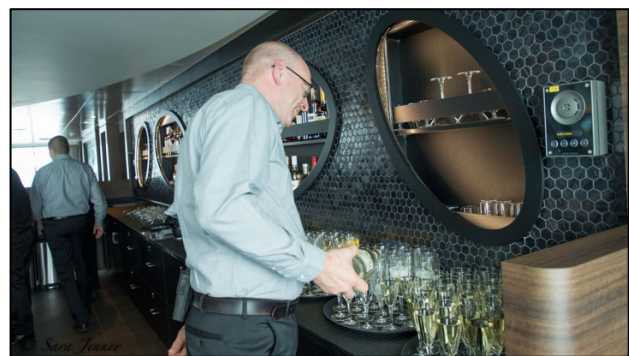


filled us with confidence to survive this trip in good health. After the briefing, we were given our rubber boots for the upcoming landings during this expedition.

In the afternoon, Bill gave a presentation about Scotland and left us excited to meet his country, the birthplace of 'the crazy Scotsman'.

Just before dinner we had a Captains welcome cocktail, this was followed by a short recap. Jan introduced us to the fate of the Dogger Bank and its inhabitants in the past. Many of us had never heard of it before, and were surprised to learn about the huge tsunami that drowned it, this was caused by a massive underwater landslide off the coast of Norway; the Storegga Slide. After dinner we watched an interesting documentary about this piece of history before meeting new friends for different types of games in the lounge.

That evening we went to bed with a big smile; Jan gave us one more hour of sleep that night. We were visited by sweet icy dreams in our sleep...



## Day 3; 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Aberdeen

*'Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes' Mahatma Gandhi*

GPS position at 12:00: 001°51,6'W, 57°06,9'N

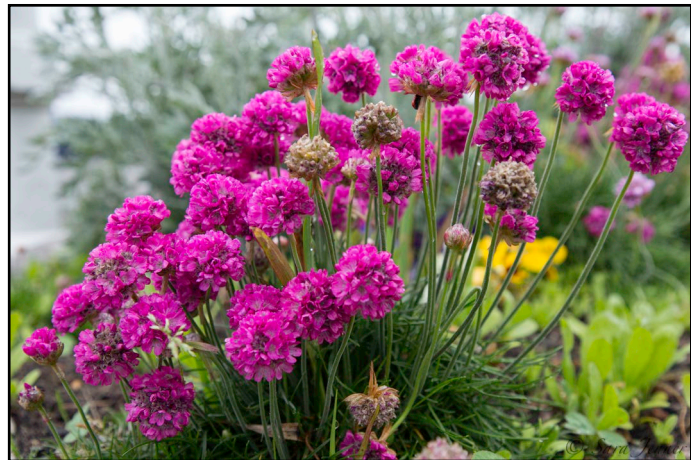
Air temp.: 17°C  
Sea state: calm

Sea temp.: 12°C  
Wind: NNE-1

Swell: 1 m  
Weather: overcast



The expedition team seem to trust in our weather making skills, perhaps more than ourselves, but their trust was well-founded. We woke up to cloudy skies, calm waters, and some rays of sunshine and found ourselves approaching Aberdeen. Skeins of sea fog cloaked the vessel as it tentatively approached the harbor. After breakfast, we had to say goodbye to some of our fellow passengers who left us in Aberdeen. We were given three exciting choices as of how to spend our day in Bonnie Scotland. Our decision-making skills were tested



to the hardest while choosing between a bus trip to the North or South of grey

Aberdeen. For most of us it was easy to neglect the offer of spending a whole day in



the city, yet the final decision was hard, but the outcome worthwhile both ways.

Around thirty passengers headed south towards Stonehaven, a delightful little fishing town nestled between two protective slopes. The keen-eyed may have noticed the sign for the heated outdoor swimming pool. Proof indeed that sometimes it gets miserable enough in these parts to have to artificially warm the bathing waters... as if the days weather wasn't evidence enough. Just beyond and perched precariously on a precipitous plinth lies the spectacular Dunottar Castle. There is evidence of settlements here from the early Middle Ages, but what remains today is from the fifteenth century. This castle, like many, played a key part in the Jacobite uprisings, but it is perhaps best-known for its role in protecting the Scottish crown jewels from the advancing Cromwellian troops in the seventeenth century.

Slightly further south, but no less impressive was the RSPB's Fowlsheugh nature reserve. Home to the largest seabird colony on the east coast of Scotland. With more than 130,000 breeding pairs of birds, it is a place full of life at this time of the year. Easily visible were kittiwakes, guillemots, razorbills, and fulmars, as well as the more predatory herring gull. However, the belle of the ball was undoubtedly the puffin. Comical is too easy an adjective to describe these little sea parrots with their colorful bill and cheeky waddle. They stood guarding the entrances to their burrows in easy view for the assorted lenses pointed in their direction. A wonderful experience at a wonderful place.

Meanwhile, to the north, a larger contingent of ships company ventured onto the Sands of Forvie - a pristine dune landscape home to many bird species including eider ducks. Perhaps more excitingly though, on the estuarine stretch of the River Ythan, were grey and common seals in abundance. Estimates vary between 300 and 3000 depending on which guides opinion was canvassed... Regardless, the delight of watching these creatures venture ever closer from the safety of the water was photographic heaven.

After a short lunch break, the party headed towards the cliffs at the Bullers of Buchan - named from old Scots for the rushing of seawater through the arch into the cauldron below. The cliffs here are similar to those at Fowlsheugh with many of the same species of birds on show, but the natural geos and stacks make this a unique, far more



dramatic place.

In the late afternoon the two parties were once again reunited at the quaint historic village of Fittie, before heading back into the dock. Here, we welcomed a further twenty passengers onboard to continue with us in our quest ever northwards to the land of ice with dreams of whales and bears. But first we must head to Fair Isle, will the islands name match its weather...?













## Day 4: 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Fair Isle

*'Beauty is found in simplicity' Plato*

GPS position at 12:00: 001°35,4'W, 59°21,6'N

GPS position at 18:00: 001°52,3'W, 59°51,0'N

Air temp.: 5.6°C

Sea temp.: 12°C

Swell: 1 m

Sea state: moderate

Wind: NE-4

Weather: fog, overcast

After a successful day in Aberdeen the ship sailed overnight to Fair Isle. The new passengers who joined in Aberdeen had also received the mandatory safety and zodiac drill the night before so we were all cleared to go ashore. As there was no harbour for the *Hondius* to use it was the first time we had to use the zodiacs to go ashore and it was a proper wet landing.



Exciting times for all of the passengers and staff. Once everybody was dressed up in their waterproofs, rubber boots and managed to get the lifejackets on correctly, we started to board the zodiacs. There was a nice swell at the sea, but

nothing to get worried about, and we all managed to get ashore easily. The steps up to the road were a bit slippery, but with care we navigated our way around the boulders and kelp along the shore.

Fair Isle is Scotland's most remote inhabited island, home to 53 permanent residents. At arrival, we were met by a welcoming party from the Islanders who described the many points of interest around the island, the walking routes, not to be forgotten; the tea, coffee, and cakes in the village hall.



Unfortunately, the weather forecast this day proved to be correct, and the rain started shortly after everybody had landed. However, it didn't stop most of us from wandering around by ourselves, or from joining the guided walk that was offered. For those who wanted the people of Fair Isle even provided a taxi service to the city hall and to the other sites around the island. Aside from the refreshments and excellent selection of cakes, there was also the possibility to shop around various stalls with a variety of Fair Isle special knitwear, postcards, paintings, and more, offered by the local families.

It was a very nice opportunity for everybody to enjoy the island at their own pace and to spend as much time as they wanted on the cliffs, the lighthouse, the harbor, or the colony of puffins on the hill just off the landing spot. Shuttles back to the boat started as soon as there were some of us that wanted to go back to the drier surroundings of the ship. Conditions on the way back were a little worse with wind and waves picking up but by 16.00 all passengers and staff were safely back on the ship for our daily re-caps and dinner.















## Day 5; 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Day at Sea, bound for Jan Mayen

*'Pourquoi non?' Charcot*

GPS position at 12:00: 003°46,4'W, 63°13,5'N

GPS position at 18:00: 004°24,2'W, 64°16,5'N

Air temp.: 5°C  
Sea state: 1 m

Sea temp.: 10.8°C  
Wind: SSW-7/8

Swell: 2 m  
Weather: overcast

Some of us were woken up by the gentle rocking movements of the sea, while others found it challenging to wake to Jan's soft voice in the early hours. Many of us made it to breakfast but a few of us had smaller appetites due to the slightly rougher seas. The beautiful waves of the open ocean were not liked by everyone on board.



Our lovely Sara gave a lecture on photography, entitled 'how to take pictures you are happy with'. She commenced the lecture by stating 'Wildlife is my passion & photography my frustration' which referred to the fact that it is more important to observe wildlife, rather than capturing its fancy movements on camera and being sad when the animal of desire plays 'catch me if you

can' with you. She also suggested to study the object of interest before taking a picture in order to allow for higher success rates. Always think one step ahead, if the birds will start flying they will most likely take off in the same direction as the wind. If a bear is swimming, he will most likely aim to jump on an ice floe, and so on.

Later on, there was another lecture presented by Andy Gilbert from Orca on whales and dolphins in the Arctic. During this lecture, we learned how to comfortably identify marine mammals and seabirds in the Arctic.

In the afternoon Laurence gave a presentation on the bathymetry of the high latitudes. During his talk, he described the world beneath the waves and opened a whole new door for some of us. We learned about iceberg scour marks along with natural underwater explosions, underwater volcanoes, huge geologic fault systems, and landslides; all of which have left their marks on the ocean floor.

After dinner, some of us spent the evening watching a natural history documentary on Arctic exploration. For others, the evening meant another social gathering in the bar with fellow passengers and new friends. We had lots of fun and were almost too bubbly to go to sleep tonight with Jan Mayen looming in the future.



## Day 6: 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Day at Sea, bound for Jan Mayen

*'In the deep space of the sea I have found my moon' Jacques- Yves Cousteau*

GPS Position at 12:00: 006°16,7'W/ 67°13,3'N

GPS Position at 18:00: 007°01,2'E/ 68°20,5'N

Air temp.: 5 °C  
Sea state: rough

Sea temp.: 7.6 °C  
Wind: SSW-7/8

Swell: 3 m  
Weather: good visibility

When we woke up, we found ourselves officially in Arctic waters as we crossed the Arctic Circle in the early morning hours. We were welcomed by another fog kissed day. However, by now, after leaving Scotland behind we had learned to embrace all types of weather. Some of us even started to enjoy the eerie atmosphere created by those misty horizons. After breakfast, we retired to the lounge, to the outer decks, or even back to bed! Some of us even chose a lie in instead of breakfast.

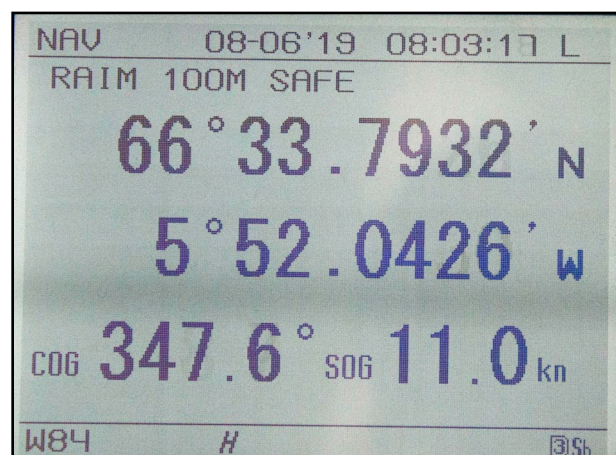


Before long the sky lightened we were accompanied by the sun. We enjoyed lots of time on the outside decks in search of wildlife. We saw several different bird species as well as a pod of pilot whales very close to the ship.

Andreas, the funny German, gave an interesting talk about climate change in the Arctic during which we learned that we are responsible and can have an impact on Earth's

environmental conditions. Andreas explained the different scientific aspects very clearly and took us by surprise when he told us that we melt one coin of sea ice with every coffee we drink. We laughed a lot but we also became slightly thoughtful in hindsight. During the afternoon, there was another presentation given by Tobias, the German geologist onboard, who lectured on the Geology and thereby on the volcanic history of the beautiful island of Jan Mayen, which we were aiming to reach within the next day.

While enjoying some afternoon tea with cake we were given an introduction to Jan Mayen by Jan. In addition, some of us watched a documentary about hunting in the Arctic.



All in all another lovely day at sea!



## Day 7: 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Jan Mayen

*'Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers' Alfred Lord Tennyson*

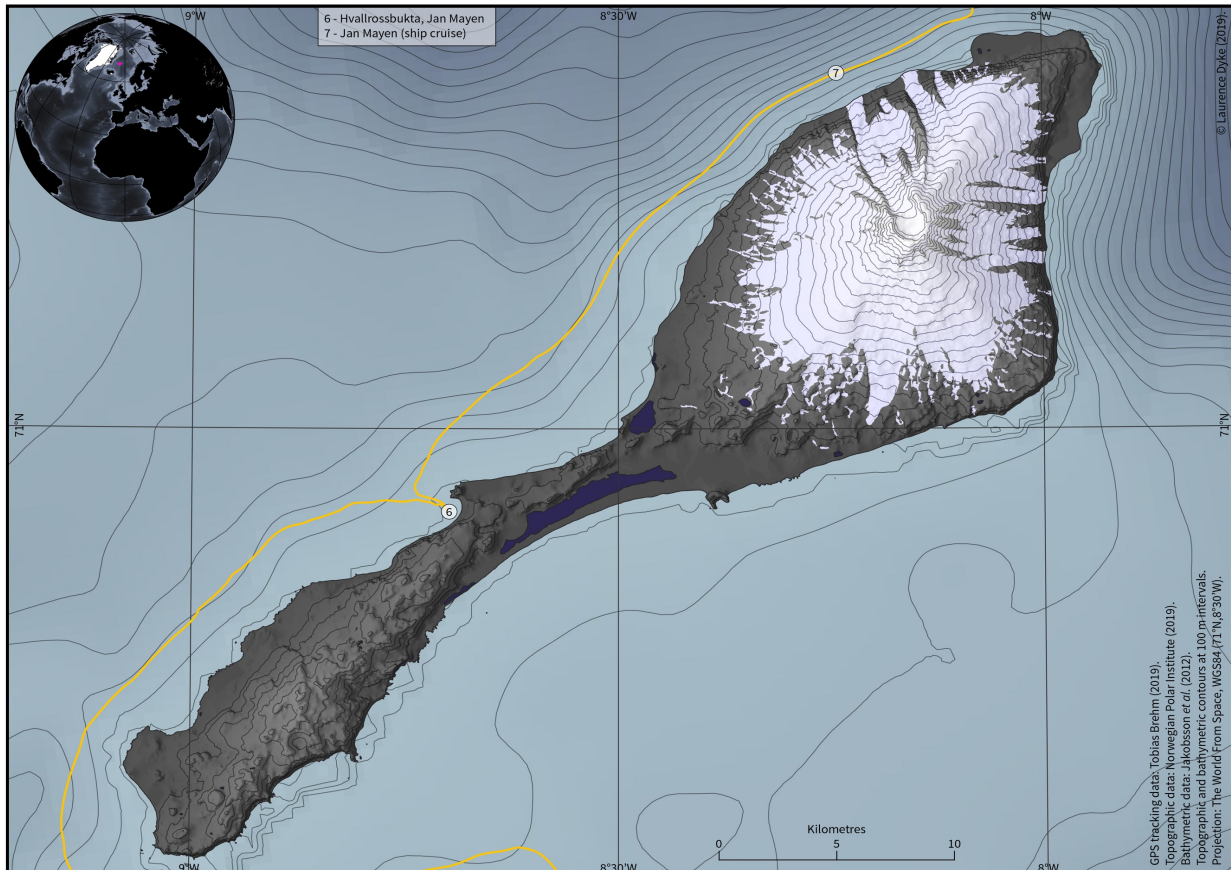
GPS position at 12:00: 008°42,1'W, 70°58,0'N

GPS position at 18:00: 008°07,9'E, 71°22,6'N

Air temp.: -1°C  
Sea state: slight

Sea temp.: 4.3°C  
Wind: E-2

Swell: 1.5 m  
Weather: overcast

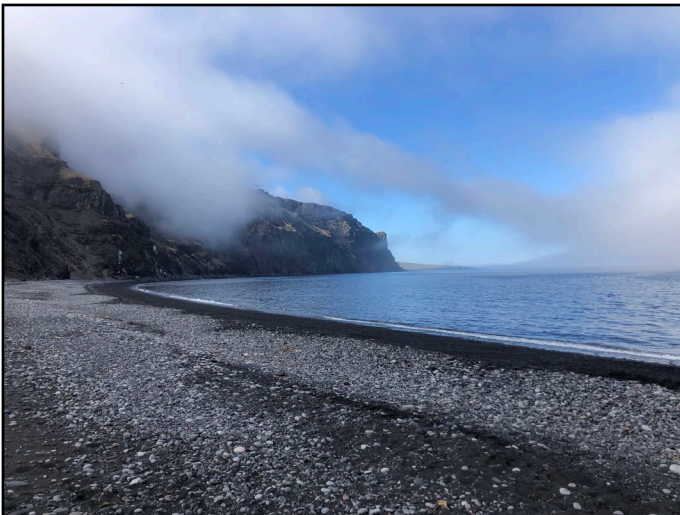


The day began very early for an intrepid few; braving the chill Arctic breeze of the small hours for a glorious view of the approach to Jan Mayen. The morning sun backlit skeins of low sea fog and the view to the north was utterly dominated by the monolithic presence of Beerenburg, the volcanic sentinel guarding over the Norwegian-Greenland Sea.

First, an energetic humpback made several appearances relatively close to *Hondius*. This was followed after breakfast by a large spout seen repeatedly out at sea, off the port deck. This whale was far enough away to be challenging to identify, but later close examination of photos showed that it was a blue whale; the largest animal on the planet!

Well-rested from our beds, and well-fed from another sumptuous breakfast we were ready to embrace the vigour of an attempted landing on Jan Mayen. Jan called a

briefing to announce the final plans, the station chief on the island had been in touch – our planned landing site at Båtvika, on the southern side, was awash with a large swell and there was no way to land safely there. Instead we would have a scenic cruise around the southern cape of Jan Mayen, and a little way up the west coast, to a sheltered bay named Hvallrossbukta. As *Hondius* anchored there was a thick pall of fog lying heavily over everything and not even a glimpse of the shoreline. Two zodiacs were swiftly lowered to scout the bay, and after a cautious recce, they returned with good news; conditions were excellent and the fog was starting to thin and lift.



The group of hikers set off first, landing on the steep shingle beach and setting off into the mists up the hill above the bay. The landing beach had an ethereal feel, the spectre of the *Hondius* appeared sporadically in the swirling mists and the imposing volcanic cliffs occasionally revealed themselves – although never in full. Once the hikers were underway the beach party landed, with a relaxed timetable there was plenty of time to take in the sights and sounds of Hvallrossbukta. The black basalt beach was utterly devoid of footprints and as we explored the area a chorus of little auks called out cheerfully from

the amphitheatre of cliffs around us. The back of the beach was littered with huge logs. These had arrived on Jan Mayen after a tortuous journey from Siberia, through the



Arctic Ocean; enduring the crushing maze of ice floes before being released from their cold grip in the Fram Strait and drifting south in the East Greenland Current to the shores of Jan Mayen. Some of the logs were full-size trees and their position, far from the lapping water's edge, is testament to the ferocity of the storms that ravage this little outcrop of rock in the middle of the ocean. The northern end of the beach is dominated by a rescue shelter, a storage depot, and some heavy equipment used for maintaining the gravel road and landing supplies for the station.

Whilst the beachgoers were exploring the hikers had made good progress; climbing the gravel track above the beach, dropping over the far col, and climbing once more towards the saddle in the centre of the island. The mid-point of the hike was a little over 4 kilometres from the beach, the mist had cleared substantially and it was possible to see across the rugged landscape towards the far coast of the island and a vast expanse of driftwood along the shoreline. The two hiking groups took turns to walk across the dusty bowl over the ridge from Hvallrossbukta to approach the little auk colony among the rocks. Little auks are very charismatic birds; they took off in chattering flocks and we could hear their calls singing out from the burrows in the hillside. Jan Mayen is home to tens of thousands of little auks and they are thought to be the most numerous seabird on earth.









the beachgoers made it back to *Hondius* just in time for lunch, while the hikers ate sandwiches that they had prepared earlier in the morning. By 3 pm all were back aboard and *Hondius* hauled up the anchor and set off for a ship's cruise along the northern coast of the island.



A layer of thick, low cloud limited our views but we could see the shoreline of the island to the very northern tip. This included the area of new land formed by lava flows during the 1970 eruption, and several large glaciers which cascade from the summit crater of Beerenburg all the way to sea level. These white walls streaked with black volcanic sediments were our first glaciers of the trip, and a brief appetizer for the wild icescapes of Svalbard. As we rounded the northern tip of Jan Mayen we turned, heading due north, bound for the Arctic pack ice.

At the evening recap Jan announced the plans for the coming day. Andreas then explained the glaciology of Jan Mayen, including the glaciers that we had seen earlier. Sara followed with an introduction to the different pinnipeds we have, and may still



encounter; this included some handy tips on how to identify them. Finally, Bill talked introduced us to a painting; Breugels 'The Fall of Icarus'. He took us on a journey through the subtle themes hidden within the painting with an engaging commentary. Dinner followed shortly after, and soon it was time to retire, the gentle motion of the ocean rocking us to sleep once more.



## Day 8: 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Sea & first ice

*'The basis of any wisdom is patience'- Plato*

GPS position at 12:00: 75°05'095 N/ 010°11'979E

GPS position at 18:00: 75°47'679 N/ 007°54'821E

Air temp.: 0°C  
Sea state: moderate

Sea temp.: 4.3°C  
Wind: E-2

Swell: 1 m  
Weather: overcast, sea ice



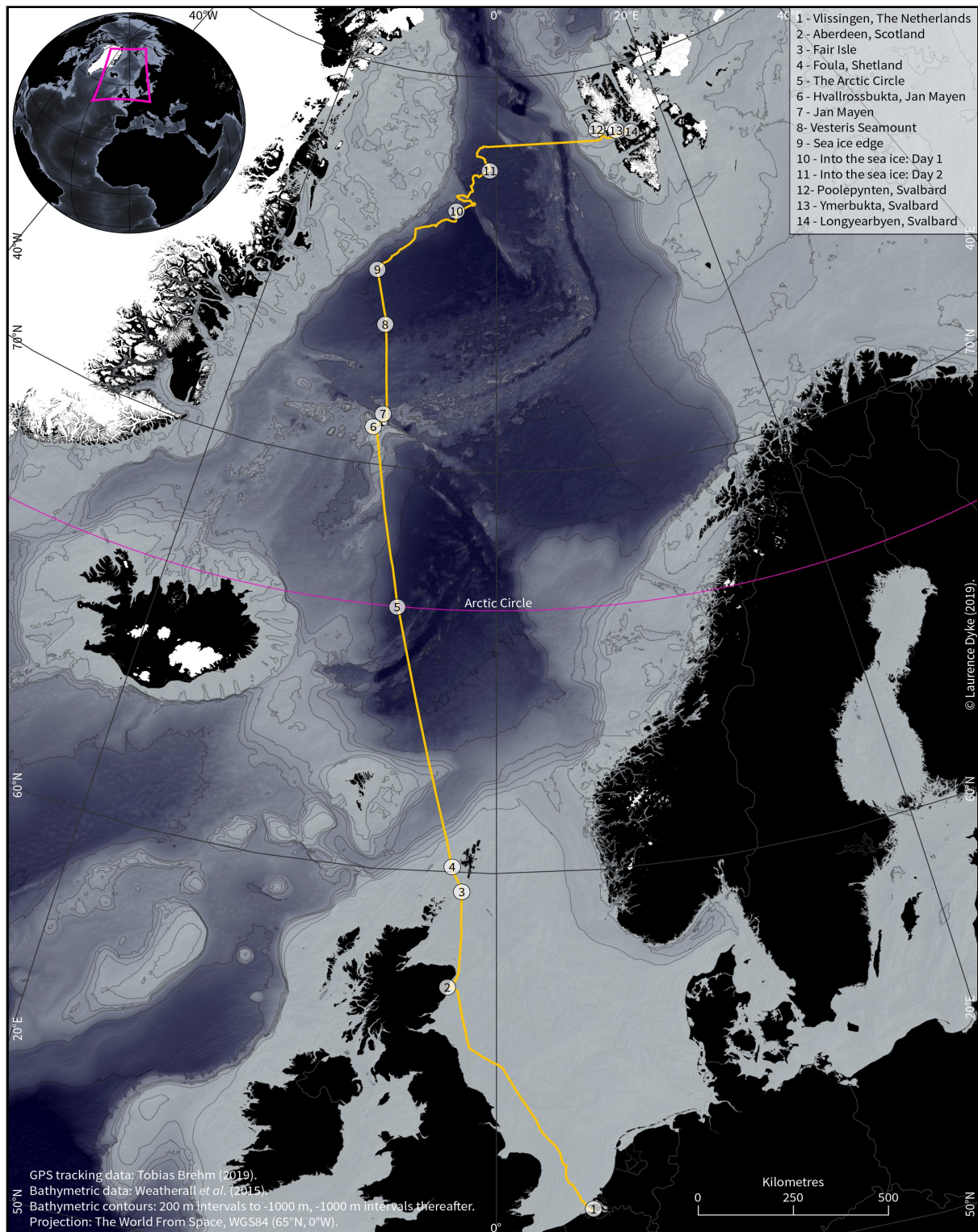
Today, we woke to sunny skies, patchy fog, and calm waters. After another delicious breakfast, onboard we joined Sara in the lounge for her presentation about the king of the Arctic, the polar bear. Half way through her talk we reached the pack ice and were amazed by the icy waters surrounding us.

The high latitudes welcomed us with a belt of pack ice up to 2 m thick, for some, including *Hondius*, this was our first taste of Arctic sea ice. Our ship measured up to its high latitude reputation.



The maximum ice thickness of the surrounding pack ice belt reached 2.5 m.

We were mesmerised by the ice blink in the distance and observed the *Hondius* in admiration as she broke through ice floe after ice floe and enjoyed a captain who certainly loved ramming the bow of the boat into the next ice flow ahead. We had lots of fun!



Even during our lunch, we couldn't take our eyes off the magical oceanic wonderland and were looking forward to going back out on deck. The expedition team and some enthusiastic passengers spent their time on the outside decks as well as on the bridge, aiming to spot wildlife, *BEARING* the polar bear and marine mammals in mind.

In the afternoon, Tobias, the ROCKstar gave an interesting lecture about optical phenomena in the polar regions, followed by Iain who gave a short lecture on sea ice formation.

We spent some quality time in the lounge and on the outside decks with our new friends. Some of us also decided to puzzle, play games, or read in the library instead.

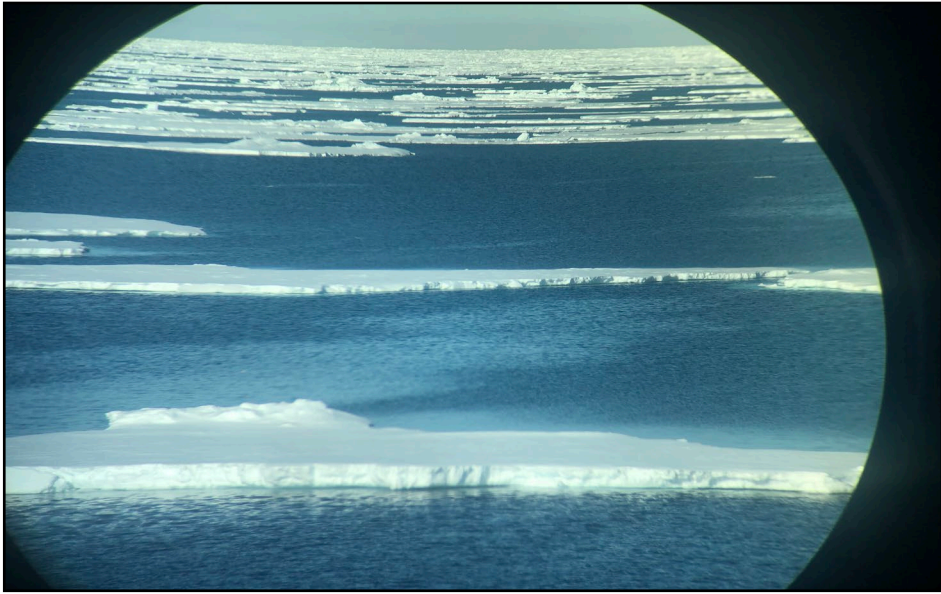
The recap prior to dinner was dominated by Bill's brilliant artistic performance. It was an incredible experience to sail through different latitudes up to the pack ice. We felt a bit like we have had achieved the aim of this expedition. However, we did not go to sleep tonight without a bear in mind.

The expedition team and a few enthusiastic birders spend all night on the bridge in search of wildlife. Our lovely captain wanted us to have an enjoyable night and decided to sail out of the pack ice, in the open ocean during the night, aiming to prevent us from waking up due to constant movement and noise from travelling through the ice.

This meant, that the everyone out and about at night, was predominantly in search of marine mammals. Several whales and seals were spotted in the distance, but these fleeting glimpses did not justify a wakeup call for the whole ship in the middle of the night. These seals and whales took a look at *Hondius*, while swimming past, in silence, in order to follow the AECO rules, leaving all wild humans in peace, without disturbing their sleep patterns. The bowhead whale stayed away entirely, probably worried that our disrupted sleep pattern could have caused a collision with the *Hondius* and ice of greater thickness than its ability to break through, caused by tired, half shut eyes.

If they would have only known us better...

They should have attended Bill's lecture to learn to listen, think and understand to see themselves as we would have looked at them. Therefore, we dreamed on and on, until Jan's soft voice came on, calling us for breakfast.







## Day 9: 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2019

### In the pack ice in search of the polar bear

*'Pantha rhei' - Heraclitus*

GPS position at 12:00: 76°56'532 N/ 003°22'570E

GPS position at 18:00: 77°02'887 N/ 002°43'970E

Air temp.: 0°C

Sea temp.: 4.3°C

Swell: 1 m

Sea state: moderate

Wind: E-2

Weather: overcast, sea ice

We were in search of the desired king of the Arctic all night in dreamland and continued the search in the morning with half shut, but eager eyes. Most of us gathered in the lounge right after breakfast to both socialise and spot wildlife.

We knew that we were close to the white, fluffy thing because more and more footprints kept appearing in the ice.

Once again, Sara held an excellent talk about polar bears and our lovely assistant expedition leader Iain gave a brilliant lecture about polar history and thereby lead us into a new world of ice and snow.

Pierre, the vet and marine mammal specialist among the team gave a lecture on marine mammal conservation which was highly interesting. And finally, Bill gave a long recap before dinner about art in conjunction with the ocean.

In the evening, we were given the opportunity to watch an interesting documentary on the different hunting techniques developed by various predatory animals living in the high latitudes. This was simply titled 'The Hunt'.

Today, our motto was: sleep, dream, wake up, eat, and repeat. The icy summer wonderland captured our attention minute after minute, leaving us mesmerised and humble.

We spotted several different types of seals on the surrounding ice flows and watched large flocks of little auks and ivory gulls flapping alongside our ship.

The bar was busier that night, showing that many of us have found new friends with whom to share stories and laughs. Several of us were playing card games and read some interesting books out of our extraordinary diverse library on board.

However, even though the food in the restaurant was outstanding, we finally felt like grumbling. We loved what the kitchen team put on our plates, but we had to worry about what put on our waists, and on day 9 many of us starting to feel the effects of this excellent food. But we also learned that in the Arctic it is good to be fat, 'the fatter, the better'. Besides, on a good expedition cruise ship you fly in and roll out and it's pointless to get upset about it but it's better to accept the fact and enjoy.



## Day 10: 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Day in the pack ice & polar bear search

*'People will protect what they love' Jean-Michel Cousteau*

GPS position at 12:00: 77°57,3' N/ 001°43'2W  
GPS position at 18:00: 78°00'538 N/ 000°33'520E

Air temp.: 1°C                      Sea temp.: 4°C                      Swell: 0 m  
Sea state: calm                      Wind: SSE-3                      Weather: good vis., sunshine

For most of us, today was the highlight of the voyage. Our wildest dreams came true and we finally met the king of the Arctic on ice.

Today we felt like being on a real expedition. The day started with our schedule for the day being cleared due to the incredibly good ice conditions surrounding the ship, perfect for seeing polar bears. The expedition team and several passengers spent the morning trying to spot the king of the Arctic. We were all very excited and it felt a little bit like being on a secret mission with a touch of hide and seek. We only had about 3

hours remaining in the pack ice before reaching the open sea, when Mike, one the birders among us spotted

a bear on ice. Even though directions on where to find the bear were given immediately, it took most of us several minutes to find the bear ourselves.

This demonstrated again how well-camouflaged these animals are with regards to their surrounding environment. The icy wonderland was breathtaking, but the sighting of a polar bear was undoubtedly the highlight of the day for every single one of us onboard. The *'Herzige*



*Isbaerlie'* as our Swiss friends onboard refer to it, was really a bear playing on ice and showing off. It jumped and swam between the ice floes, rolled around in the ice and looked at us with big, charming, wise, and slightly hungry eyes. The main question, crossing our minds was: 'who is watching who'?



After it spotted us, a longer episode of 'hide and seek' begun. From time to time the white beauty kept appearing. However, despite its large size and great body weight, it seemed almost tiny and insignificant with relation to the surrounding vast wilderness of the Arctic Ocean. What a solitary yet majestic existence. Again, whoever joined Bills art presentation the previous night, certainly thought about it.

Being exposed to the vast expanses of harsh wilderness inevitably led to thoughts about our place in the world and the fragility of life. For other we were simply blown away by ice and its inhabitants. We could see the high diversity within the ice, and had come to appreciate that it is a world of constant change, reflecting the endless movements of the sea and wind.

As Bill said, 'this morning will never come again', but at the same time we can say that 'this morning, will never be forgotten'.

After our polar bear encounter we lifted our expectations and nature did not let us down. Soon after lunch our lovely *Hondius* was visited by different species of whales. Among these was a rare bowhead whale (Greenland whale), the newborn ship also attracted an even more rare Narwhale of which a few of us were able to catch a glimpse.

We also saw many birds (ivory gulls, kittiwakes etc.), large groups of harp and ringed seals, and there was a single hooded seal sat far out on the ice. The silence and peacefulness of the sea ice was only interrupted only by the chattering kittiwakes and the sound of crunching ice, caused as we navigated through the pack ice.

Our allocated 'weather fairy' onboard worked very hard during the night to create beautiful sunshine for today and it worked, the sun was shining on us, the ice and the bear all day. There was neither fog, nor swell, which made the wildlife encounters



spectacular. Besides, we could enjoy almost the whole day out and about on deck due to fairly good weather and comfortable temperatures.

We learned in the beginning of our voyage that we, the guests are responsible for the weather, while the expedition leader with his team will try everything in his power to create many, unforgettable memories. In the evening, our fellow guests and new-found friends gathered again in the lounge for a recap and polar bear safety briefing in the lounge. Andreas gave an introduction to Svalbard and Jan an introduction to the safety during landings in terms of potential polar bear sightings.

During the recap of the day we were celebrating the polar bear sighting of the day. Mick was given a bottle of Port wine, for being the first to spot the bear.

After another tasty, 4 course meal we were given the opportunity to attend another lecture by Andy and Andrew from the Orca project concerning mitigation measures allowing for conservation of local cetacean populations. Some enjoyed a quiet evening in their cabins, while others had a rather lively evening in the bar. What a 'baerenstarker Tag' (powerful beard day).



Different people, different activities, different sights, different stories, but the same aim to sail the last 250 nautical miles to Poolepynten on Svalbard. What a beautiful day! What an exciting time ahead of us! What a past, what a present, what a future! Icy dreams during day & night...in what a wonderful world we live in!

**Comments from guests (confidential identities)**

1. Food, food, food 'you fly in and roll out, the destiny of being on a voyage with Oceanwide Expeditions. However, we were told that the Arctic has its own rules: the fatter, the better. Our big, fat, happy polar bear of the day underlined this theory, as well as the ' faule Robbe auf der Scholle'. It was good that we had marine scientists

onboard who helped us to see the seal on ice in a different light. Apparently, they are not fat and lazy, but champions of energy efficiency.  
2. My blubber is becoming ocean wide





## Day 11: 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 First glimpse of Svalbard & first landing on polar bear terrain

'What the ice gets, the ice keeps' Sir Ernest Shackleton

GPS position at 12:00: 78°25'779 N/ 011°56'492E

GPS position at 18:00: 78°16'355 N/ 013°59'011E

Air temp.: 1°C

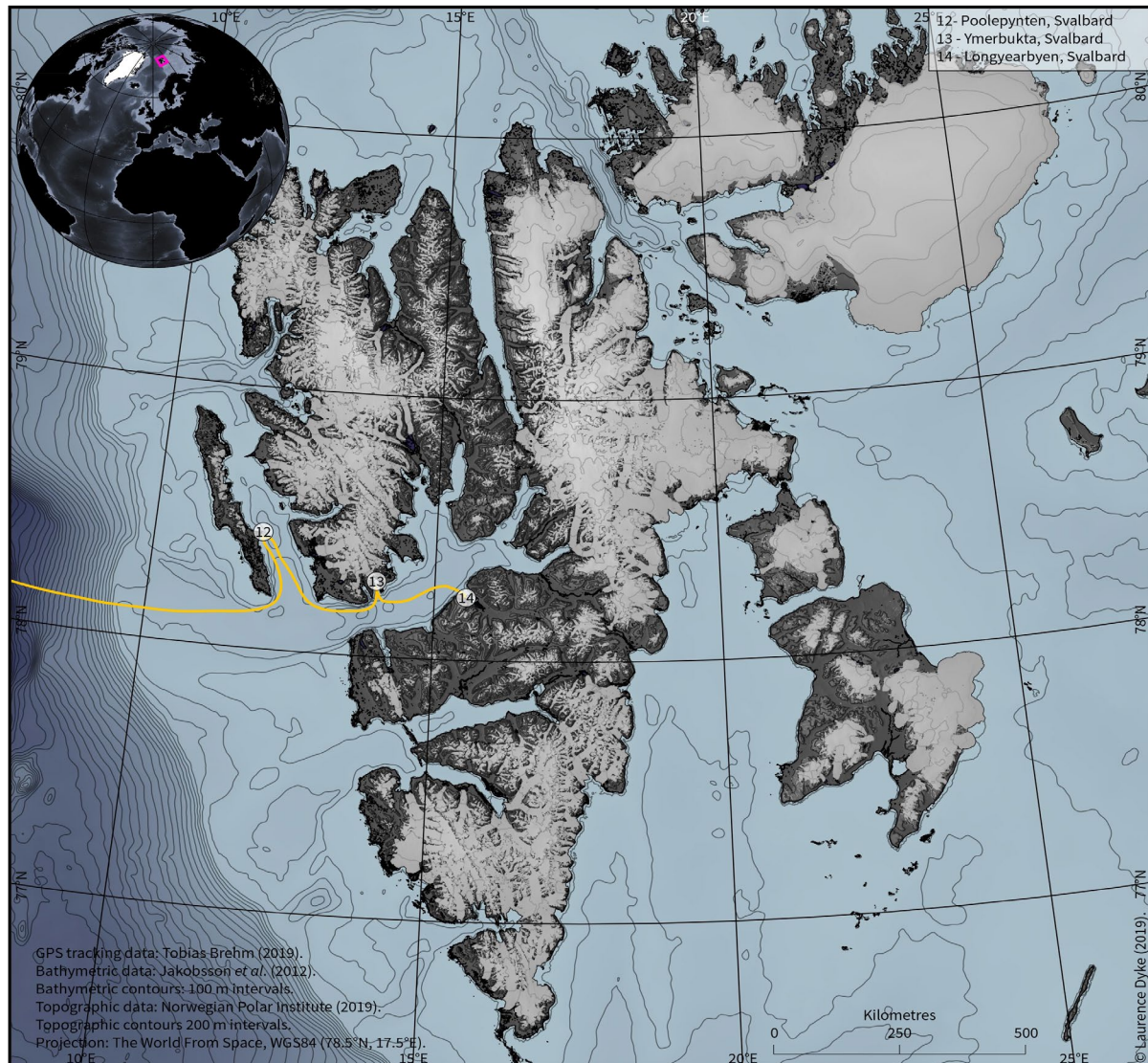
Sea temp.: 6.9°C

Swell: 1 m

Sea state: moderate

Wind: NE-4

Weather: overcast, foggy



A new day dawned, overcast sky, dull, after yesterday but a promise of excitement lay ahead as *Hondius* slid gently through calm seas to the island of Prins Karls Forland and our landing site at Poolepynten.

First thing after breakfast we were divided into groups and, once ashore, were led along the debris strewn beach towards the end of the sand bar. Huge baulks of timber, some of which were natural tree trunks, others discarded worked beams, all originating from the Russian coast, were strewn across the flat landscape and mingled with assorted ancient whale bones, seaweed and shingle. Enormous lagoons dotted the vast expanse of sandy plain behind the beach and stretched out to the base of snow-

covered mountains rising dramatically in the distance.



Jan briefed each group as they approached as to 'Walrus viewing protocol' and explained that guides carrying rifles for protection would be in the front and rear of each group. Passengers walked forward slowly in an extended line. Everyone understood and obeyed the instructions....no flashes on cameras, no sudden movements, and most importantly no noise apart from the constant clicking of shutters and whir of film cameras as eager passengers fired off thousands of shots to capture every movement of the animals.

An efficient shuttle of boats transferred everyone back to *Hondius*.



After the usually excellent lunch *Hondius* anchored for the final adventure of the cruise... everyone participated in two activities, an extensive Zodiac cruise in the fjord of Ymerbukta and then a landing and walk near the shattered front of the glacier. For many this was a trip highlight, sightings of whales and seals in the water, a fox and reindeer on land, and an informative description of the geology of the stunning landscape.

Passengers returned to *Hondius* where the Expedition Leader Jan and Alexy the



outstanding Captain gave thanks to the entire crew and the highly professional guide team and toasted the success of this very special Oceanwide Expedition...the first voyage of the Polar expedition vessel *Hondius*.

A brilliant ending to a totally memorable experience for all passengers...once again smiles on every face. Looking, seeing, thinking and doing. Listening, hearing, understanding and doing...and most importantly having FUN!





## Day 12: 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 Disembarkation: Longyearbyen

GPS position at 12:00: 78°14'0 N/ 015°36'1E

Air temp.: 3°C	Sea temp.: 6.8°C	Swell: 0 m
Sea state: calm	Wind: WSW-5	Weather: sunshine

This was a journey of a lifetime and we saw some of the most beautiful parts which the Arctic has to offer. The great weather, lovely guests, the captain, Jan our expedition leader, as well as our two assistant expedition leaders Iain and Adam in conjunction with the knowledgeable expedition team as well as the competent, hard working crew made this voyage possible. Have a safe journey home and we hope to welcome you onboard of one of our beautiful vessels again in the near future. It was a pleasure meeting every single one of you.

It was finally time to say goodbye. On Hawaii they say 'never say goodbye, but always hello'. On Svalbard they say nothing. Norwegians are not particularly talkative... Regardless, we hope to see you again, in the North or the South, or somewhere in between.

**On behalf of everyone on board we thank you for travelling with us and wish you a safe journey home!**

**Your Expedition team**

Total distance sailed: 2231 Nautical Miles



*'The impossible missions are the only ones which succeed' (Jacques Yves Cousteau)*

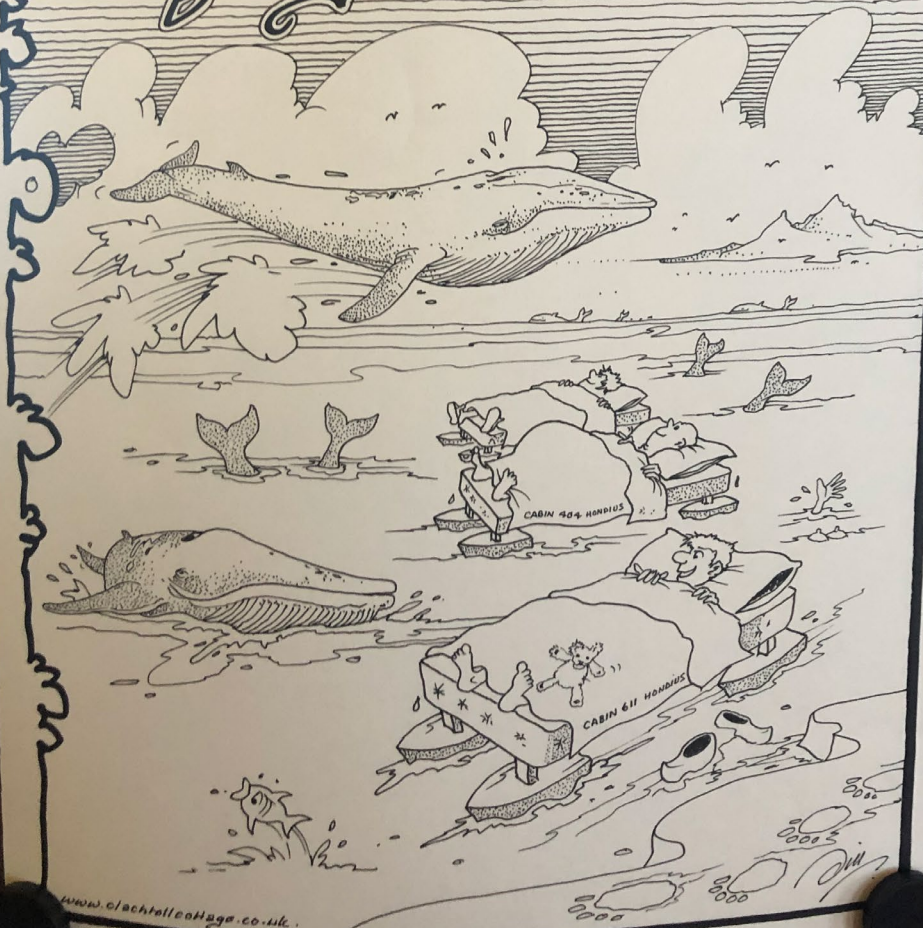
*'Temporis filia veritas' = 'Truth is the daughter of time' (Johannes Kepler)*

*'The ocean is free within the bounds of the bay, high waves rolling in...'* (Rose)



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The size of your photo should be between 2MB and 8MB. Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by 31 October 2019. The photography contest runs from 16 May 2019 until 30 September 2019.

Read the terms and conditions of the contest on [www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms](http://www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms)

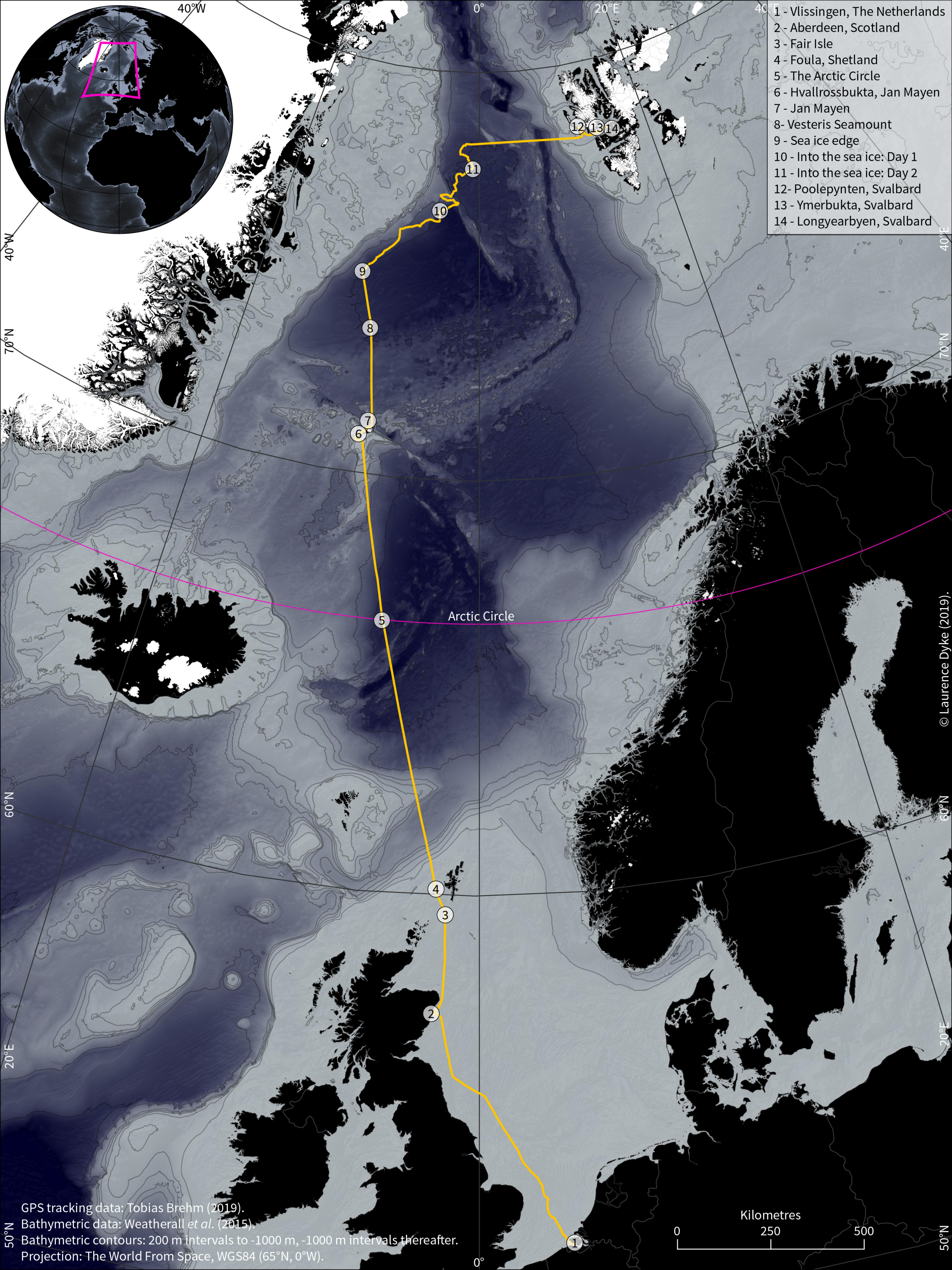
## Birds and Mammals of N Atlantic & Svalbard 03-13 June 2019

English Name	Latin	German	Dutch	3-jun	4-jun	5-jun	6-jun	7-jun	8-jun	9-jun	10-jun	11-jun	12-jun	13-jun
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Eistaucher	Ijsduiker							x				
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Roodkeelduiker			x		x						x
European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		Stormvogeltje				x	x						
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Noordse stormvogel		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Manx shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Schwarzschnabelsturmtaucher	Noordse Pijlstormvogel		x	x								
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Basstörpel	Jan-van-gent		x	x	x	x	x					
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Krähenscharbe	Kuifaalscholver			x	x							
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		Aalscholver	x		x	x							
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		Blauwe reiger			x								
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Löffler	Lepelaar	x										
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		Knobbelzwaan			x								
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		Bergeend	x		x								
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Kleine rietgans				x			x				
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Brandgans	x						x				x
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Graugans	Grauwe gans				x							
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Krickente	Wintertaling				x							
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eidereend			x	x			x				x
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Konings eider											x
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Scheckente	Stellers eider											x
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Ilseend						x	x	x			
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Trauerente	Zwarte zee-eend			x								
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Turmfalke	Torenvalk			x								
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		Boomvalk		x									
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		Slechtvalk			x								
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		Grote zaagbek			x								
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		Buizerd			x								
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		Meerkoet			x								
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Austernfischer	Scholekster	x		x	x	x						
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		Kievit				x							
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		Goudplevier				x							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Bontbekplevier			x	x	x		x				
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Drieteenstrandloper			x			x					
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Paarse strandloper							x				x
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Alpenstrandläufer	Bonte strandloper			x		x						
Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Bekassine	Watersnip				x							

Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		Regenwulp				x							
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		Wulp			x	x							
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Rosse franjepoot											x
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Kleine jager			x	x	x	x				x	x
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Kleinste jager							x	x	x		
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grote jager			x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Schwalbenmöwe	Vorkstaartmeeuw								x	x		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Lachmöwe	Kokmeeuw	x		x								
Common/Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Sturmmöwe	Stormmeeuw			x	x							
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Grote Burgemeester							x	x	x	x	x
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Silbermöwe	Zilvermeeuw	x	x	x	x							
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Heringsmöwe	Kleine mantelmeeuw	x	x	x	x	x						
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Mantelmöwe	Grote mantelmeeuw			x	x			x				
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Drieteenmeeuw		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Franklins Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>		Franklins meeuw				x							
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Ivoormeeuw								x	x	x	
Common tern	<i>Sterna</i>	Flusseeschwalbe	Visdief	x										
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Noordse stern	x		x	x			x	x			x
Sandwich tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Brandseeschwalbe	Grote Stern	x		x								
Little tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Zwergseeschwalbe	Dwergstern	x		x								
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Zeekoet		x	x	x	x	x	x				
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Dikbekzeekoet							x	x	x	x	x
Razorbill	<i>Alca tadorna</i>	Tordalk	Alk		x	x	x							
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Zwarte zeekoet				x			x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Kleine alk							x	x	x	x	x
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Papegaaiduiker		x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Turkentaube	Turkse Tortel				x							
Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Felsentaube	Rotsduif		x	x	x							
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		Holenduif				x							
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		Houtduif		x	x								
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		Gierzwaluw		x	x								
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		Veldleeuwerik				x	x						
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Rauchschwalbe	Boerenzwaluw	x	x	x	x							
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		Oeverzwaluw				x							
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Mehlschwalbe	Huiszwaluw		x	x		x	x					
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Amsel	Merel				x							
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		Fitis				x							
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		Tjiftjaf				x							
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Star	Spreeuw				x	x						



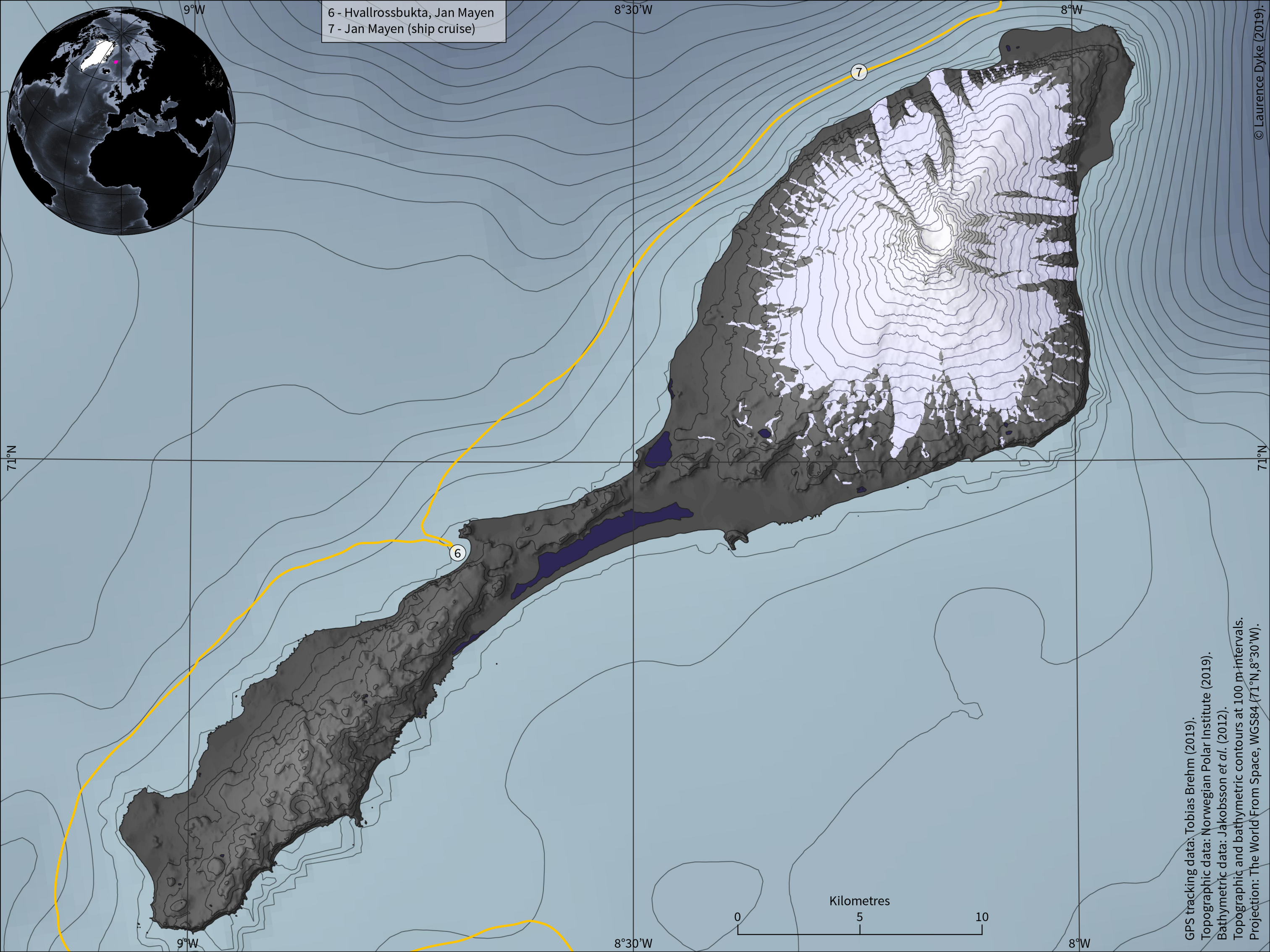




- 1 - Vlissingen, The Netherlands
- 2 - Aberdeen, Scotland
- 3 - Fair Isle
- 4 - Foula, Shetland
- 5 - The Arctic Circle
- 6 - Hvallrossbukta, Jan Mayen
- 7 - Jan Mayen
- 8 - Vesteris Seamount
- 9 - Sea ice edge
- 10 - Into the sea ice: Day 1
- 11 - Into the sea ice: Day 2
- 12 - Poolepynten, Svalbard
- 13 - Ymerbukta, Svalbard
- 14 - Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS tracking data: Tobias Brehm (2019).  
 Bathymetric data: Weatherall *et al.* (2015).  
 Bathymetric contours: 200 m intervals to -1000 m, -1000 m intervals thereafter.  
 Projection: The World From Space, WGS84 (65°N, 0°W).





6 - Hvallrossbukta, Jan Mayen  
7 - Jan Mayen (ship cruise)

GPS tracking data: Tobias Brehm (2019).  
Topographic data: Norwegian Polar Institute (2019).  
Bathymetric data: Jakobsson *et al.* (2012).  
Topographic and bathymetric contours at 100 m intervals.  
Projection: The World From Space, WGS84 (71°N, 8°30'W).

© Laurence Dyke (2019).



12 - Poolepynten, Svalbard  
13 - Ymerbukta, Svalbard  
14 - Longyearbyen, Svalbard

GPS tracking data: Tobias Brehm (2019).  
Bathymetric data: Jakobsson *et al.* (2012).  
Bathymetric contours: 100 m intervals.  
Topographic data: Norwegian Polar Institute (2019).  
Topographic contours 200 m intervals.  
Projection: The World From Space, WGS84 (78.5°N, 17.5°E).

© Laurence Dyke (2019). 77°N



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## Jan Belgers - Expedition Leader

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Jan Belgers was born in 1965 in the Netherlands and lives in Rotterdam. He has been working as a professional outdoor guide and expedition leader for many years now. Travelling and guiding in wildernesses all over the world are his passion.

His work as a guide has brought him from the high mountain ranges of the Himalayas and Andes to the extreme latitudes of Spitsbergen and Antarctica.

His first steps in the Polar Regions he made in 1992 as a student, when he participated in an international winter expedition to the

Weddell Sea in Antarctica.

Since then he has joined several (research) expeditions to remote places in the northern and southern oceans. Jan feels at home on the sea, due to his background in marine biology, and is one of the expedition leaders on our sailing ship, the Noorderlicht. He lectures on natural history, biology and polar history and is a polar literature fanatic.

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# Adam Turner, FRGS - Assistant Expedition Leader

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Adam was brought up in countryside of Essex, England. He began sailing at the age of 9 and began working on the local river aged 12 before leaving school.

By 16 he had a small fishing boat and was working on boatyards and taking tourists to see the local seal colonies as well as helping out on the local Lifeboat.

Adam then joined HM Forces and was posted to Northern Ireland and in the UK, he also served in Kenya as a boat operator. In 2002 Adam joined the Police and spent several years on a specialist unit working across the

UK with his search dog Charley.

Since being a young lad Adam had dreamt of working in the Antarctic like his Uncle had done in the late 1980's, and in 2014 Adam left the Police to work as Boating Officer for British Antarctic Survey at King Edward Point, South Georgia where he spent just over a year.

Adam studied at Middlesex University and often gives lectures on history, in 2017 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and he now works as guide and Consultant.

Adam holds a commercial masters certificate and instructs in several marine disciplines, he enjoys diving, climbing, kayaking and outdoor activities.

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## Iain Rudkin, FRGS - Assistant Expedition Leader

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A love for travel alongside a passion for mountains, wild places and photography has allowed Iain to fulfil many a childhood dream.

Equally at home in his native Scottish mountains as in the polar regions, Iain has been fortunate enough to be able to combine his enthusiasm for the wilderness with a real-life job - a privilege not lost on him!

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

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# Tobias Brehm - Expedition Guide

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Tobias grew up in the Bavarian Alps spending as much time as possible out and about to observe and learn from and about Earth and Nature. He likes to share this passion with interested people and has facilities to explain these fascinating mechanisms and phenomena.

With a B.Sc. in Geosciences and a M.Sc. in Economic Geology, Tobias' experience mainly originates from his work as an exploration geologist within the mining and metals industry. He has worked on projects in the US, Australia, Iceland, Greenland and all across Canada with a focus on remote, helicopter-based fieldwork within the Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia; in areas that not many people have a

chance to see and enjoy.

When telling about his work and experiences, Tobias realized numerous times that there are many misconceptions in regards to geology and that geologists are generally not trying well enough to reach out to the 'general public'. In addition, many people seem to be 'disconnected' from nature in some ways. This led him to join the Oceanwide Expeditions team in 2014 to share his love and knowledge about Earth and Nature, especially of Polar Regions, with others.

Throughout his geological career, Tobias has travelled all across the world experiencing many different cultures and environments. He has been to Alaska and the "Lower 48" (i.e. Yellowstone National Park), to nearly all of Canada, Australia & Tasmania, Peru, Iceland, to nearly all of Europe and to desert countries like the Sultanate of Oman. However, he feels most comfortable in rugged, mountainous terrain of Polar Regions.

At home, he spends his time climbing mountains and exploring the mystical spheres of caves or abandoned mines.

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# Miriam Vermeij - Expedition Guide

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During her youth she travelled a lot with her parents and sister in Europe. Miriam developed an interest in nature at a young age and lots of time was spent outdoor, exploring local insects and plants. Following her interests she followed an environmental science study and got a degree with a specialisation on soil pollution. Nowadays she is a self-employed environmental planning officer.

From 1999 the travelling outside Europe started. With her husband Marcel, she travelled all around the world. In 2006 they went to the Antarctic and there the passion for the poles started. The first contact with the Arctic was in 2011 and after another trip in 2013 she came back as field assistant on the Dutch polar expedition (SEES) in 2015 and to the Dutch polar station in Ny Alesund in 2016. Since 2017 she has been guiding in the Arctic, followed by the Antarctic in 2018.

In Holland Miriam is a nature guide since 2003. First in the local forest and since 2008 also in one of the largest national parks in Holland: De Biesbosch. There she is guiding school kids and adult groups on walking and boating trips. She is also part of the board that manages the local forest.

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# Marcel Paul - Expedition Guide

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From his teens Marcel has been a keen traveller. After camping and trekking with friends, he led groups on trekking's to Austria, Switzerland, England and Scotland. His own travels over the last 20 years brought him to all 7 continents together with his wife Miriam. With his interest in (exploration) history and as keen hobby photographer, the Polar Regions have always been drawing his attention.

At his first arrival to Svalbard in 2011 and a second trip in 2013, he felt connected with the remoteness of the place and the dynamics of the polar nature. At that time the idea started to grow to become a polar guide and give up a job that is keeping him indoor most of the time.

When the Dutch organised a scientific polar expedition to Edgeøya it seemed the perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge from the area by working with the scientists. He joined the expedition in 2015 as field assistant and participated in various fields of research. In 2016 he went to the Dutch polar station in Ny-Alesund, again as field assistant.

Living next to one of Europe's biggest wetland reserves, the Biesbosch in Holland, weekends are often spent on his boat with his camera close by. Since 2017 he has been guiding in the Arctic, followed by the Antarctic in 2018.

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# Sara Jenner - Expedition Guide

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For as long as Sara could remember she has had a passion for travel and searching for the wildest and most remote places on earth.

Back in the UK when she was only 10, she remembers trading in her favourite pink bicycle for the money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and Christmas she added a little more in the kitty and finally, at 18 she realised her dream of diving at the Great Barrier Reef! At that point the travel addiction was born!

Ever since Sara has been travelling 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.

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, Falklands, South Georgia, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island and Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK, Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years, until the travel bug hit again, when she decided to swap life on the land for a life at sea and joined the Oceanwide Expedition Team in 2016.

Sara is a keen wildlife photographer and when she is not wrapped up warm in the polar regions she enjoys working as a photographic guide in Botswana, on the beautiful Chobe River and Okavango Delta, so really has a life of two halves.

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# Szymon Niezabitowski - Expedition guide

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Szymon was born in 1993 in Cracow, Poland. He studied Biology and Geography in Cracow where he received graduate degree in “Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences”.

His graduate thesis was about Volcanic Soils on Iceland.

After he finished his studies he worked for the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, where he was a guide and keeper of exotic animals.

From the earliest years of his life he is a passionate naturalist with a special interest in the geography and the wildlife of the higher latitudes.



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# Rosalie Steffen - Expedition Guide

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Rosalie (Rose) is originally from Germany but is currently commuting between southern Spain and Svalbard. She grew up traveling around the world in search of pristine nature and marine creatures. Her passion for the ocean led to a degree in marine biology and oceanography in Wales as well as New Zealand and a master's degree in applied marine geophysics. Besides, she also studies scientific journalism.

Her main interests lie in the field of climate change, marine mammals and glaciology as well as sea ice. She enjoys traveling, the outdoors, water sports (sailing, surfing, diving) and adventures. Among her recent adventures is an Atlantic crossing on a sailing vessel. She lived half a year on Hawaii and half a year on an isolated Asian island where she dedicated her life to diving and sea turtle conservation. Besides, she also spent several months in Tonga and Indonesia. In addition, she spent a year in Australia where she worked as a snorkelling guide at the Great Barrier Reef and guided horseback tours through the wilderness of western Australia. Over the past years Rosalie has been working as an expedition guide, zodiac driver and lecturer in the polar regions, but her heart belongs to the crystal-clear waters of the South Pacific.

She enjoys meeting people from different backgrounds with whom she can share her knowledge with. Rosalie almost loves coffee as much as the underwater world and is more than happy to spend a coffee break with you onboard.

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## Pierre Gallego - Expedition Guide

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Pierre is a veterinarian specialised in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organising marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique. He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

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# Laurence Dyke - Expedition Guide

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Laurence is from Cornwall in the far southwest of the UK and grew up on the coast, never far from the water and boats. Laurence has a background as a geographer with a special focus in glaciology, a choice inspired by seeing a glacier up close for the first time in the Austrian Alps.

For the last 7 years he has worked in science, both in the UK and Denmark, working to understand how and why huge glacier systems have changed in the past. Laurence first visited the Arctic in 2010 whilst undertaking research for his PhD and was immediately captivated by the wild landscapes of the high latitudes. His subsequent research has taken him on numerous expeditions to remote areas of Greenland, Svalbard, and Arctic Canada.

Laurence is also a passionate advocate for polar science, when time allows, he produces videos and articles about research from Greenland and the wider Arctic. Laurence lectures in glaciology and geography.

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# Bill Smith - Expedition Guide

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“Super Bill” as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun-loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 55 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 55 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

He has the following qualifications: -

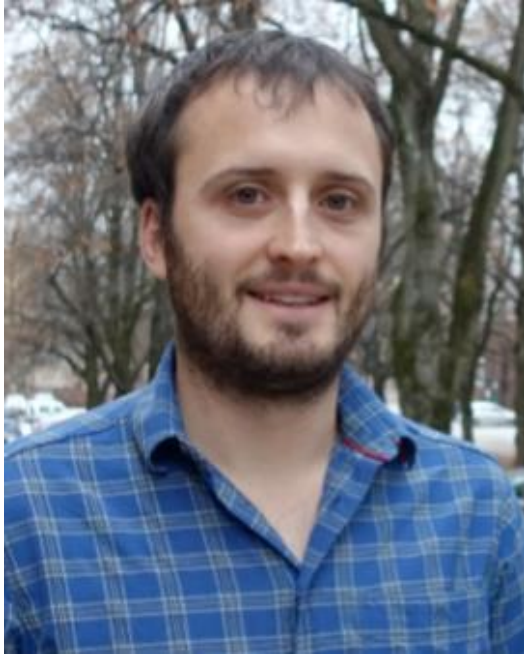
- Royal Yachting Association Advanced Powerboat Instructor
- Royal Yachting Association Senior Sailing Instructor
- Royal Yachting Association Windsurfing Instructor
- British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor
- British Association of Ski Patrollers National Patroller
- British Association of Ski Patrollers First Aid Trainer
- Snow Sport Scotland Ski leader
- President of the Assynt Highland Games
- Honorary member of Assynt Crofters Trust
- Member of the Federation Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip.

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# Andreas Alexander - Expedition Guide

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Andreas started his career as one of the “bad guys”: As a mechanical engineer on fossil power plant construction sites.

Not completely convinced by that he continued in materials research to finally follow his fascination for polar research.

The direction was clear during the parallel studies in mechanical engineering and geology: North. Scientific drilling in the caledonic mountains in Sweden, volcanoes in Alaska and finally Svalbard.

Andreas lived almost three years there and studied Arctic Geology and Geophysics at the University Centre in Svalbard. Hereby he could regularly be found crawling and climbing in and under glaciers for his research.

Meanwhile Andreas is working as a PhD Research Fellow at the University of Oslo and spends his time in Norway, Svalbard, Greenland, Japan and Alaska. When he is not standing in the lecture room, sitting in his office or doing fieldwork in the Arctic, he works as an Expedition Guide in the Arctic and Antarctic. A job, where he shares his polar fascination with his guests and gladly talks about the life in polar sciences, glaciers and geology.

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# Ko de Korte - Guest Lecturer

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He spent his childhood and youth on a small farm near the sea in Zeeland, Netherlands. He studied Biology at Free University in Amsterdam.

In 1968 he wintered on Edgeöya (East Spitsbergen) with the Netherlands section of IUCN Polar Bear Census Expedition. Between 1973 - 75 he studied ecology of the Long-tailed Skua with field work in Scoresby Sund, North East Greenland. This was followed by a study of klepto-parasitic behaviour of the Greater Frigate-bird in Galápagos in 1977-78. He then spent several years studying seabird colonies in Indonesia.

Between 1987 and 2007 he lectured on Arctic Ecology at the Arctic Centre, University of Groningen and carried out field work in Antarctica,

Russian Arctic and Peary Land.

In 1982 he became the co-coordinator of the Plancius Foundation which operated ship-based voyages to Spitsbergen and the Caribbean with M/V Plancius. As of 1991, their operations were in the Arctic and Antarctic on the m/v Prof. Molchanov, where Ko worked as the Expedition Leader for many of these voyages.

Since 1996 he had been an advisor for the Arctic Program for Oceanwide Expeditions.

In his free time, he enjoys astronomy, the MotoGP and listening to Blues and Baroque music.

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# Andrew Crowder – ORCA Cruise Conservationist

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Andrew is an experienced naturalist with a life long history of observation, study and sheer enjoyment of wildlife. His interest in natural history started as a young boy watching birds and they remain his first passion. Focusing mainly on UK and European species, he has travelled extensively and accrued a wealth of knowledge.

Andrew has always been drawn to the sea and is a BSAC qualified Advanced Scuba Diver; he has had the privilege of experiencing incredible marine life which few others get to see. Time spent exploring the underwater world spawned his other main interest: cetaceans.

Andrew has over twenty years of experience with these animals and recognises that few wildlife encounters spark such an emotional reaction in humans as when they see whales and dolphins.

Andrew uses his knowledge and enthusiasm to help more people share such inspirational experiences, and thereby promote conservation of our precious natural world.

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## Andy Gilbert – ORCA Cruise Conservationist

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Andy Gilbert has been a volunteer marine mammal and seabird surveyor and wildlife guide for ORCA and other marine charities for a number of years.

His passion for the oceans, nurtured during a childhood spent growing up in Cornwall, has driven his fanatical enthusiasm for cetaceans. After volunteering as an ORCA Cruise Wildlife Officer on a number of ships across the North Atlantic, and a summer working for ORCA as a Wildlife Officer in the Bay of Biscay, he is currently employed as ORCA's full time Wildlife Officer in the Hebrides.



# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 – June 14, 2019

## Day 1, June 3, 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 and if not, inform the reception!*

**\*\* Tea and coffee are always available in the observation lounge on deck 5 \*\***

- +/-17.00 Welcome briefing in the observation lounge (deck 5). The expedition leader and the hotel manager will introduce you to life on board the Hondius. This will be followed by a mandatory 'Safety at Sea' briefing and abandon ship drill.
- 18.30 Savoury snack available in the bar
- +/-19.00 Departure of the Hondius. Please stay off the bridge during the departure and while we are sailing out of port Vlissingen. It will be announced when the bridge will be open for visitors.
- 19.30 Dinner is served in the dining room (Deck 4).
- +/-21.30 Welcome meeting in the observation lounge at deck 5. Here you will meet the expedition team and hear about our plans.

Soon after departure from Vlissingen we enter the North Sea. It is about 400 Nautical Miles from Vlissingen to Aberdeen in Scotland (1 nm. is around 1.9 kilometres so about 740 km.). It will take us about one and a half day to reach our first destination, Aberdeen in Scotland. We plan to arrive in Aberdeen on Wednesday, June 5.

***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 Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 – June 14, 2019

## Day 2, June 4, Tuesday: at sea towards Aberdeen

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room.
09.30	Compulsory meeting in the observation lounge (deck 5). Please join the expedition team in the lecture room to hear the safety and environmental guidelines
+/-10.30	We are going to start with the handing-out of the rubber boots and inflatable lifejackets. You will be called deck by deck to the boot room on deck 3. Take thick socks with you to find the good size of boots!
12.30	Lunch
+/-14.30	Presentation in the observation lounge at deck 5, by Bill: A taste of Scotland. A general introduction to Scotland
18.30	Recap in the observation lounge: farewell to those passengers that are leaving the ship in Aberdeen and information on tomorrow's plans in the bar
19.00	Dinner

Today we will be the whole day on the open sea. It is about 400 nautical miles to Aberdeen in Scotland (1 nm. is around 1.9 kilometres so about 740 km.). It will take us about one and a half days to reach Aberdeen. We plan to arrive there tomorrow, Wednesday, June 5.

**Tonight, the night between June 4 and June 5, we will change the time on the ship. We will change to British time: at 03:00 o'clock tonight the clock will go one hour backwards, instead of 03:00 it will become 02:00. So, we will have 1 extra hour of sleep!**

**Remember: walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship. Shut all doors firmly!**

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 – June 14, 2019

## Day 3, June 5, Wednesday: Aberdeen

- 07.00 Wake-up call (We have changed to British time during the night, so the time on board is now one hour earlier)
- ±07.00 At the pilot station/ pilot comes on board
- 07.30-08.30 Breakfast. Do not forget to prepare your packed-lunch during breakfast.
- ±08.00 Alongside the pier/ customs come on board.
- ±09.00 Leaving the ship/  
Bus tour starts
- ±16.30 Back at the ship.
- 17.00 Last back on board!
- ±18.00 Departure of the Hondius. Please stay off the bridge during the departure, while we are sailing out of the harbour. It will be announced when the bridge will be open.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room (deck 4).
- ±21.00 Compulsory meeting for everybody in the observation lounge (deck 5). Information about tomorrows plans on Fair Isle.

Today we will visit Aberdeen. We expect to arrive in the morning. The busses for the tours will be ready in the harbour at 09.00 and plan to be back at the ship around 16.30. Make sure you have been cleared by customs before you go off the ship and do not forget to take your passport with you when you go ashore. On the pier we are not allowed to wander of on our own, we need to be accompanied by officials who will walk us to the bus.

For those of you that continue with the Hondius to Spitsbergen; the ship needs to depart at 18.00 in order to reach Fair Isle in time so please be on the ship not later than 17.00. It is about 150 nm. from Aberdeen to Fair Isle and we plan to arrive there tomorrow, Thursday morning, June 6.

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

**Day 3 (1), June 5, Wednesday: boarding and departure from Aberdeen**

## WELCOME ABOARD!

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

**\*\* Tea and coffee are always available in the observation lounge on deck 5 \*\***

- ±16.30 Welcome briefing in the lecture room (deck 5). The expedition leader and the hotel manager will introduce you to life on board the Hondius. This will be followed by a mandatory 'Safety at Sea' briefing.
- ±18.00 Departure of the Hondius. Please stay off the bridge during the departure, while we are sailing out of the harbour. It will be announced when the bridge will be open.
- 19.00 Dinner is served in the dining room (deck 4).
- +/-21.00 Compulsory meeting for everybody in the observation lounge (deck 5). Information about tomorrow's plans on Fair Isle. After the meeting all new passengers will get another compulsory meeting in the lecture room. During this briefing you will hear about zodiacs, safety and environmental guidelines. Finally, rubber boots will be distributed. Take thick socks with you to find the right size!

From Aberdeen we sail towards Fair Isle, Scotland's most remote inhabited island. It is about 150 nm. from Aberdeen to Fair Isle. We plan to arrive there tomorrow morning, Thursday, June 6.

***Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really 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 Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 4 (2), June 6, Thursday: the Shetlands; Fair Isle

07.00	Wake-up call
07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast. Please prepare your pack lunch during breakfast
09.00	Landing by zodiac on Fair Isle (lifejacket, rubber boots)
14.00 and 15.00	zodiac shuttle service back to the ship
16.00	Last zodiac back to the ship Departure and sailing towards Jan Mayen
18.30	Recap and information on our evening plans in the bar
19.00	Dinner.

Today we will visit Fair Isle, Scotland's most remote inhabited island. In the morning we have a wet landing on the north-east side of the island. This is where the famous bird observatory is located. The highlights of Fair Isle are of course the bird-cliffs and the Puffins but also it will be possible to visit the town hall (until 12.30) where there is coffee and tea is available and traditional Fair Isle knitwear is for sale. The town hall is open until 12.30 so be there in time.

After Fair Isle we continue our voyage towards Jan Mayen. It is about 700 nm or 1300 km. to Jan Mayen, which will take us about two and a half days.

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 5 (3), June 7, Friday: at sea towards Jan Mayen

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast
10.00	Lecture by Andy Gilbert from ORCA: Whales and Dolphins of the Arctic. Learn how to Identify Marine Mammals and Seabirds in the Arctic Region.
12.30	Lunch.
14.00	Lecture by Sara: Photography - How to take pictures you are happy with
16.30	Lecture by Laurence: High-latitude bathymetry: The world beneath the waves
18.30	Recap in the bar
19.00	Dinner
21.00	Documentary in the lecture room

Today we will be for the whole day on the open sea, the first of the two days. It is about 700 nautical miles, or 1300 kilometres to Jan Mayen and it will take us two and a half days to reach this remote island. We expect to arrive there on Sunday morning, June 9.

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 6 (4), June 8, Saturday: 2<sup>nd</sup> day at sea towards Jan Mayen

**Tonight, the night between June 7 and June 8, we will change the time on the ship. We will change to European/ Jan Mayen time: at 03:00 o'clock tonight the clock will go one-hour forwards, instead of 03:00 it will become 04:00. We will have 1 hour less sleep!**

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast
10.00	Lecture in the lounge by Andreas: The Arctic Timebomb (Climate Change in the Arctic)
12.30	Lunch
14.00	Lecture in the lounge by Tobias: The Geology of Jan Mayen
16.30	Informative meeting in the lounge with information on Jan Mayen
18.30	Recap in the lounge
19.00	Dinner.
21.00	Documentary in the lecture room

Today we will be another whole day at sea. From Fair Isle it is about 700 nautical miles, or 1300 kilometres to Jan Mayen. It will take us two and a half days to reach this remote island. We expect to arrive there on Sunday morning, June 9.

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 7 (5), June 9, Sunday: Jan Mayen

07.00	Wake-up call
07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast. Hikers, don't forget to prepare your pack lunch!
TBA (+/- 09.30)	Possible landing near the Norwegian station on Jan Mayen. Hikers go first around 09.30. After a station visit the hikers are going to walk to Kvalrossbukta, on the north side of the island. The ship will sail around the island and pick-up the hikers in Kvalrossbukta
TBA (+/- 10.00)	Those not hiking will start landing. Wait for announcements!
13.00	Lunch on board for those that are not hiking. The hikers will take a packed-lunch. The ship will sail to Kvalrossbukta.
+/-17.00	The hikers are being picked up. Last zodiac back to the ship at Kvalrossbukta. Start sailing towards the pack ice.
19.00	Dinner

Today we hope to reach Jan Mayen. In the early morning we sail through an area where we can expect to see whales, as the topography of the sea bottom allows biological upwelling, providing nutrients for phytoplankton and so providing food for whales. So be on the lookout!

We expect to arrive at Jan Mayen around 08.00. Here we hope to land near the Norwegian station, on the south side of the island. In case of a landing everybody will have the possibility to visit the station, as this is just a 10 minutes' walk from the landing beach. Those of you that are interested in an additional long walk can join in a 10 km. hike to Kvalrossbukta, at the north site of the island. The ship will sail around to Kvalrossbukta to pick-up the hikers. The exact plan will be announced only shortly before the landing as we are dependent on the sea conditions. The landings can only be carried out under favourable conditions so in case of too much wind or swell they will be cancelled.



# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 8 (6), June 10, Monday: at sea and the pack-ice

07.30 Wake-up call

08.00 – 09.00 Breakfast

10.00 Lecture by Sara: Polar Bears

12.30 Lunch

Sometime in the afternoon we might already encounter the pack ice. In case we reach the pack ice the lecture program will be postponed.

14.00 Short lecture in the lounge by Iain: How the Sea Freezes  
Short lecture by Tobias: Optical Phenomena in the Polar Regions

18.30 Recap in the bar

19.00 Dinner

21.00 Documentary in the lecture room

Today we will be for a part of the day on the open sea. Sometime in the afternoon we hope to reach the pack ice. Bear in mind, the pack-ice is not stationary, and its limits change all the time.

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 9 (7), June 11, Tuesday: the pack-ice

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast
12.30	Lunch
18.30	Recap in the bar
19.00	Dinner

Today we plan to be in and around the pack-ice for the whole day. Be on the lookout, we might meet the King of the Arctic.

No lectures are planned at the moment.

Please do not take any cups on the outer deck while we are in the ice. Also turn off the flash of your cameras when you attempt to make pictures of wildlife. Announcements for wildlife will only be given inside the ship, not on the outer decks, so animals will not be disturbed by the noise.

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 10 (8), June 12, Wednesday: at sea towards Spitsbergen

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast
10.00	Polar Bear safety talk in the lecture room. Everyone has to attend this meeting! This short talk will be followed by a lecture by Andreas: General intro to Svalbard (How does it work, who lives there, how is it there)
12.30	Lunch
14.30	Lecture by Tobias: Geomorphology in the Arctic - permafrost & landforms
16.30	Lecture: to be announced (TBA)
18.30	Recap in the bar.
19.00	Dinner.
21.00	Lecture: TBA

Unfortunately, we need to leave the ice during the morning and start sailing towards Spitsbergen. It is still more than 250 nautical miles to Poolepynten, near the entrance of Isfjorden. We plan to be there on Thursday morning, June 13.

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 11 (9), June 13, Thursday: Spitsbergen

### Poolepynten and Ymerbukta. Arrival in Longyearbyen

07.00	Wake-up call
07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast
+/-09.00	Landing with the zodiacs at Poolepynten
11.30	Last zodiac back
12.30	Lunch
	After lunch and in the evening, you can settle your account at the reception
+/-14.30	Zodiac cruise and landing in Ymerbukta
17.30	Last zodiac back
18.30	Farewell meeting in the lounge
19.30	Dinner

Today will be our last expedition day. In the morning, we plan to land at Poolepynten. Poolepynten is located on the large island of Prins Karls Forland and here we hope to see Walrus, that often haul out on the beach here.

In the afternoon and evening, you can settle your ship's account at the reception.

We planned our last outing in Ymerbukta; a zodiac cruise and landing near the glacier front of Esmarkbreen, combined with a landing near the glacier.

At 18.30 we would like to invite everybody for a farewell drink in the bar.

The ship will proceed towards Longyearbyen, where we plan to arrive during around 23.00.

# North Atlantic Odyssey

Vlissingen - Aberdeen - Fair Isle - Jan Mayen - Spitsbergen

June 3 (6) – June 14, 2019

## Day 12 (10), June 14, Friday: Longyearbyen/ Farewell

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 06.45         | Wake-up call  |
| 07.00         | Please put your heavy luggage in the corridor near your cabin, <b>at the latest at 07.00</b> . The crew and staff will carry it down to the pier. |
| 07.00 – 08.00 | Breakfast   |
- Please leave your key-card holder at the reception.
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| +/-08.30 (TBA) | Time to say goodbye! All passengers leave the ship. Put on your rain clothing and lifejacket! You will be shuttled by zodiac to the pier. |
|----------------|---|

Buses have been arranged to take you to Longyearbyen or the airport.

Passengers with an afternoon flight put their luggage into a luggage truck. Please check that you take all your luggage from the pier and drop it at the right vehicle. The luggage will be transported to the airport, where you need to pick it up at the truck near the entrance of the airport.

- For the 02.20 early morning flight, the bus will pick you up at 12.00. Please put your luggage in the corridor after dinner. You do not need an extra label for the luggage.
- For the **12.40 flight** the bus will pick you up at the drop-off place at the Butikken at 11.00 and drive you to the airport. Please attach label nr 1 on your luggage.
- For the **13.25 flight** the bus will pick you up at the drop-off place at the Butikken at 11.45 and drive you to the airport. Please attach label nr 2 on your luggage.
- Passengers going to a hotel put their luggage into the bus. You will be dropped in the town centre near the Svalbard Butikken. You do not need a label.
- Passengers with their own transport, you do not need a label.

**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!