



In search of polar bears and pack ice

Onboard *Hondius*

21st of June 2019 to 28th of June 2019



The *Hondius* was built in 2019 in Brodosplit, Croatia, as an expedition vessel for Oceanwide Expeditions. *Hondius* is a 176 passenger vessel with 83 cabins. She is 108 m long, has a beam of 18 m, and a draught of 5.3 m. *Hondius* is exceptionally capable for high-latitude adventure with a Polar Code rating of 6, a top speed of 15 knots powered by 2 diesel engines. *Hondius* is everything you can dream of for an adventurous Oceanwide Expedition.

Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 70 members including:

Staff officer:	Toni Salo	[Finland]
First Officer:	Mindaugas Oginskas	[Lithuania]
Second Officer:	Romanas Vicas	[Lithuania]
Third Officer:	Igor Nazarov	[Russia]
Chief Engineer:	Sebastian Alexandru	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Michael Frauendorfer	[Austria]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Jhonny van Velzen	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Gaurav Bawa	[India]
Ship's Physician:	Lauke Bissshops	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Raphaël Sané	[France]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Adam Turner	[U.K.]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Iain Rudkin	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Miriam Vermeij	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Marcel Paul	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide:	Szymon Niezabitowski	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	RosalieSteffen	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Jerry Zhao	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Laurence Dyke	[U.K.]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Omblin Chabasseur	[France]

Welcome you on board

Day 1: 21st of June 2019

Embarkation: Longyearbyen

GPS position: 78°09.6'N, 14°14.9'E

Air temperature: 7°C

Sea state: Calm

Sea temperature: 7°C

Wind: NNE 2

Swell: N/A

Weather: Partly cloudy

Some of us had already arrived in Longyearbyen the previous day, while a few flew in just in time to embark on *Hondius*. After long journeys we were finally on Svalbard, in the realm of the polar bear.

We had imagined that the Arctic was wild and unforgiving, and the flight in over the rugged icy desert underlined this. We had arrived into a world of glaciers, mountains, and wild Arctic coastlines. We have travelled from 16 different countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, France, Thailand, and China. After making our way to the harbour we were welcomed aboard *Hondius* and shown to our cabins by the friendly hotel team. We had a little time to grab a coffee in the lounge and to explore the ship, home for the next week of adventure.

Our expedition leader Raphaël greeted us in the lounge and we were given a mandatory safety briefing by the First Officer before we went out on deck to wave goodbye to Longyearbyen. We sailed out of Adventfjord, past the airport and satellite station, before making our way south, exploring new destinations around beautiful Svalbard. We enjoyed our first sumptuous dinner in the restaurant, while the Arctic landscape outside was bathed in the sparkling sunlight of the midnight sun. As we headed out of Isfjord, and onto the open seas, the gentle movements of the ocean swayed us to sleep.





Day 2: 22nd of June 2019

Exploration of Hornsund

GPS position at 12:00: 76°58.2'N, 16°34.7'E

Air temperature: 9°C

Sea temperature: 6°C

Swell: N/A

Sea state: Smooth

Wind: SSW 2

Weather: Sunny

After a smooth night we were woken up by the announcement of a polar bear in front of the ship. Overnight *Hondius* set sail to Hornsund where we were welcomed by glorious sunshine once again. We managed to have a good look at the polar bear before heading for breakfast. The bear was very relaxed but unfortunately decided to go for a swim which made its observation slightly more difficult.

As the bear was swimming, aiming to cross parts of the fjord it was finally time for everybody to attend the mandatory AECO briefing given in the lounge. The bear continued to swim and some of the staff kept an eye on it in order to keep track of the route that it was about to take. We all were hoping that the beautiful bear would eventually decide to land. Sitting, waiting, wishing... Some of our French guests decided to eat '*Come on bear*'... in order to enhance the chances of a promising sighting.

During the briefing Raphaël presented the goals and objectives of AECO, the '*Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators*'. This organisation establishes rules of what to do and how to behave when travelling around the Arctic, ensuring we operate in a sustainable manner.



Our assistant expedition leader, Iain subsequently gave a 'zodiac safety briefing'. Both briefings might not have been the highlight of the trip, yet they are very important. When Iain was nearly finished, the bear came ashore and started to walk calmly towards the glacier front, again giving all of us plenty of time for observations and pictures.

Immediately after the zodiac briefing it was time to collect our rubber boots, that we were going to wear during landings. Deck by deck everybody was called down to collect rubber boots from the boot room, it can be difficult sometimes to find the right size but at the end all got a pair that fitted well.

After a good lunch it was time for the first zodiac operation. All boats were lowered and passengers dressed up appropriately for the occasion with rubber boots and red life jackets. We managed to catch another glimpse of the polar bear, which had swum across the fjord and was now walking slowly up the dusty mountain flank in search of a spot to snooze.

Our next stop was the front of the Mendeleevbreen, it was beautiful to marvel at the glacier front along with the birdlife in this area. We also gained a good look at some tracks of our polar bear in the snow along the shoreline.



After everybody was back on board and the ship making her way towards open waters, we received an announcement that there were beluga whales swimming in front of the ship. More than 100 individuals were swimming along the coast of Brepollen, at the far end of Hornsund. We caught incredible sights of these seldom spotted whales. Most of the beluga were white, while a few were more grey in colour. During the recap we learned that beluga calves are born dark and turn completely white with age. We eventually had to leave the area to commence our route northwards to reach our destination for tomorrow, Kapp Lee, on time. Leaving the stunning surroundings behind us we saw some fog coming in over the glacier, perhaps a foretaste of tomorrow?



Leaving Hornsund, some of the staff were on Bridge Watch in search of whales. At 18:30 we gathered once again in the lounge for our daily recap before dinner, which was accompanied by a welcome cocktail to meet and greet our captain, Alexey Nazarov.

Raphaël explained the plans for the next day and we had a couple of small re-caps by Bill and Sara. Bill talked about how to look, see, think and do and Sara talked about belugas. What a day, we were woken up by a polar bear and sent to sleep by a large pod of beluga whales.



Day 3: 23rd of June 2019

Exploration of Kapp Lee

GPS position at 12:00: 78°05.1'N, 20°45.5'E

Air temperature: 3°C

Sea temperature: 6°C

Swell: N/A

Sea state: Smooth

Wind: S 1

Weather: Fog

After another smooth night we woke up to foggy surroundings. It was an early morning, with a wakeup call at 7.00, because we had the plan to go ashore at Kapp Lee (also known as Dolerittneset) and visit the walrus and huts over there. However, due to limited visibility a landing at Kapp Lee became impossible.

Fortunately, the scout boat discovered a fog-free area close to shore. Therefore, team members of the expedition team drove us to Kapp Lee and the walrus. We did not only see the huts along with the group of walrus on the beach, but there were also some walrus swimming around in the water.

Besides, there was more wildlife around, such as arctic foxes, reindeer, arctic skua and some of the same birds we have encountered earlier including fulmars and kittiwakes. Each zodiac cruise took approximately 30 minutes. Even though, it was a rather short cruise, we got a taste of the 'real Arctic', it was chilly and damp and were glad to be back onboard. The most important machine on the vessel did not let us down, and provided us with well-deserved hot coffee and tea.

We sailed four long, but exciting hours through the fog, aiming for one of Svalbard's largest glaciers, Negribreen. Unfortunately, the fog won over the sun and thus created dangerous environmental conditions, preventing us from landing or cruising alongside the glacier.





Our glaciologist, Laurence, awaited us in the lecture room at 3:30 pm for a lecture on glaciers. It was a great presentation and we learned a lot of interesting facts about the glacier that we couldn't see, yet...

At around 4:00 pm we reached Negribreen ('breen' means glacier in Norwegian) at a distance of 1.5 km. Since it was too shallow for the ship to approach the glacier any further, two scout zodiacs were lowered into the water to check whether the visibility was any better near the glacier front. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case. Instead Sara gave a highly interesting talk on polar bears. Finally, we all knew where and what to look for in the ice.

Hondius sailed for five hours with us through the fog to the entrance of Freemansundet. After a delicious dinner we had time for a cup of coffee in the lounge awaiting the arrival to the entrance of Freemansundet. The fog surrounding the ship was still very dense, but dark ice flows, coloured by dust and algae, floated around the ship.

Just before 11 pm there was a sighting of a bearded seal and the sound of ice against the bow of the ship became louder and louder.







Day 4: 24th of June 2019
Pack ice and Bråsvellbreen

GPS Position at 12:00: 79°06.0'N, 20°24.0'E

Air temperature: 6°C

Sea temperature: 3°C

Swell: N/A

Sea state: Ice

Wind: SW 2

Weather: Cloudy



After a particularly foggy day before we were extremely pleased to emerge from our cabins to find clear horizons and perfect wildlife searching conditions. Overnight we had successfully traversed Freemansundet and were now approaching the ice edge.

As breakfast finished, we started to feel the vibrations of the ship as she moved through ice and the Expedition Guides were on watch on the Bridge and outside decks with binoculars scanning every lump of ice and shadow to see if it was a bear. Fields of dense pack ice alternated with patches of open water, with such clear conditions, their search radius was enormous but before long there was an announcement over the PA system to say that a bear had been spotted by



Raphaël almost 2 nautical miles away. When everyone came out on deck it was just a cream dot on the ice, but as we slowly approached the shape of a sleeping bear became clear, and it thankfully it appeared to be very relaxed about our ship approaching! With some fantastic navigation from Captain Alexey we were able to get very close and watch it rest, stretch, yawn, and lick its giant paws. It was amazing to see this apex predator at such close proximity, yet it somehow seemed dwarfed by the enormity of its harsh and barren environment. As we watched silently our thoughts evitable went back to Sara's lecture from the day before where she explained the challenges these magnificent creatures are facing. Eventually the bear decided to stretch its legs once more and wandered off slowly, rolling and clambering over mounds of ice on its way, we made no attempt to follow it and allowed it to disappear from our viewfinders once more. It was a real privilege to watch a polar bear so closely and see it so relaxed.





As continued on our way through the ice, searching for more wildlife, most people headed inside for a warming hot drink and to peruse and compare the thousand photos they had just taken of our beautiful ice bear.

During lunch the *Hondius* started to cruise towards the ice cliffs of Bråsvellbreen, which along with the adjacent Austfonna makes up the second largest ice cap and glacial system outside of Antarctica and Greenland. The ice cliff is 170km in length making it the longest in the Northern Hemisphere and we could not have wished for more glorious weather in which to enjoy it. After devouring another delicious buffet lunch, (the ice cream sundae being the highlight), we were encouraged to wrap up warmly and head outside to marvel at this natural spectacle. We spent the next couple of hours slowing making our way along the ice cliff, giving us plenty of time to appreciate its sheer size and splendour. With the sun high in the sky, and clouds passing in and out of view, the glacier almost seemed to change colour before our eyes as we gazed in total



wonderment. Just as we thought the day could get no better, Michael announced that they would serve hot chocolate and rum on the bow of the ship to warm us up.

As we traversed our way along the coast to Vibebukta we found several walrus hauled out on the ice. The ship's great maneuverability and quiet engines allowed us to approach these 'rose tooth - walkers' quite closely, allowing fantastic photos to be obtained from the sea of long camera lenses out on deck. One particular ice floe had three female walrus and their calves on it so we ensured a respectful distance was maintained so as not to disturb them.



Almost on cue as we headed into dinner the fog rolled in once more, but nothing could dampen the excitement in the dining room, everyone was buzzing from a fantastic expedition day in the ice. Before we could retire for the night we convened in the lounge once more to hear more about the plans for tomorrow from Raphaël and some interesting stories from the staff including a brief history of Svalbard from Omblin, the climate of the archipelago from Szymon, and seal identification from Sara.



There was little doubt we would sleep well tonight, as the days excitement had definitely taken its toll on us and it had also been an early start for many!











Day 5: 25th of June 2019

GPS Position at 12:00: 79°10.1'N, 11°50.4'E

Air temperature: 6°C

Sea temperature: 3°C

Swell: N/A

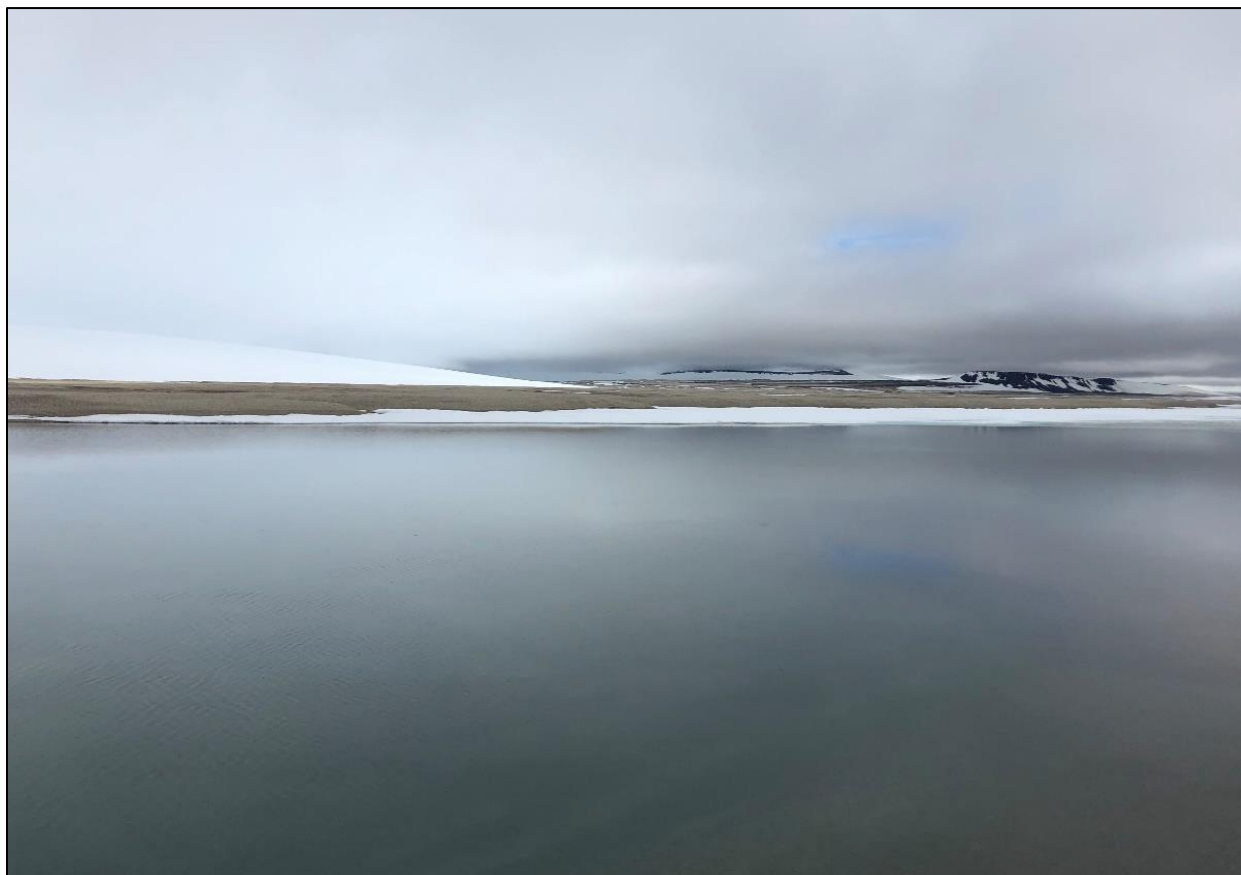
Sea state: Ice

Wind: E 3

Weather: Overcast

We woke to the sultry voice of Raphaël; he informed us that during the small hours we had successfully navigated through the morass of drifting sea ice towards Torellneset, our goal for the morning. As we stretched, and drew our curtains, we were greeted by an atmospheric view across the sea ice to Nordaustlandet; the second largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. Low cloud shrouded the tops of the dolerite cliffs and hid the upper reaches of the ice cap in the distance. Banks of fog occasionally rolled around the ship, temporarily enclosing us in a swirling world of white. As we ate breakfast Raphaël announced that we were moving our landing site; the ice at Torellneset was too thick to land with Zodiacs, so we relocated a few kilometres along the coast, towards the east, to explore the Arctic desert of Nordaustlandet.

We split into groups according to our hiking preferences. After a short, but beautiful, zodiac ride through the sea ice we landed on the shingle beaches among towering piles of ice stranded high on the shore. The long walkers landed at a spot to the west of Vegafonna, the large ice cap dominating the skyline of the landing site. The medium and short walkers landed at a site a little further to the east.



Once ashore we set off into the wilderness. The going underfoot was not that easy; the early season landscape was thick with slushy snow and small rivulets of meltwater coursed off the edge of the ice cap. As we picked our way carefully across the barren terrain it was hard not to draw analogies with the landscapes of the moon; it is a wild and truly unique landscape; all the more so because it is almost entirely devoid of life. During our wanderings we did discover a few glimpses of nature clinging to life in tenuous positions. Perhaps the most exciting example was a very old whale skull discovered far inland and many metres above the present-day shoreline. This skull was an oasis of life among the sterile gravel and cobbles of the glacier foreland. Nutrients from the skull enrich the immediate surrounds and the skull itself provided a solid anchor and shelter from the worst weather for plants to grow on. Many of us pondered how this skull had come to be so far inland; Iain gave us a short explanation, describing how the islands of Svalbard were weighed down by the immense mass of ice during the last glaciation, 18,000 years ago. As the ice sheet melted the land is springing back upwards; a process called isostatic rebound. Consequently, the shorelines around Svalbard are being lifted out of the water leaving ancient driftwood, shells, and whalebones far inland.



After several beautiful hours ashore, we headed back to the ship for another sumptuous lunch. In the afternoon Raphaël announced a unique landing; we would leave the ship and land on a large plate of sea ice floating in the middle of the Hinlopen Strait! We would split into two groups to undertake this special activity. A small team of expedition guides set out to check the sea ice, probing for cracks and areas of weakness. The prognosis was great, it was solid enough to support us safely there was an easy face to pull up alongside in a zodiac. Before long we were stepping foot onto the ice, striding out onto this unique environment. The ice was magnificent, it

was a truly bizarre experience to be floating on a plate of ice over hundreds of metres of deep, dark, cold Arctic ocean. On the way back to the ship we took a short zodiac cruise; exploring the maze of sea ice from water level, and taking a few moments to appreciate this unique seascape. We had not yet had our final surprise for the day, at recap the dinner plans were revealed; an Arctic barbecue on the back deck. We headed outside for another unique experience, a full buffet and barbecue surrounded by sea ice. With music playing and free drinks for the evening the atmosphere was very festive and plenty of us saw out the end of the day on an impromptu dancefloor; a fitting end to an unforgettable day.













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Day 6: 26th of June 2019

Sundneset and Storfjord

GPS Position at 12:00: 78°12.9'N, 21°07.8'E

Air temperature: 7°C

Sea temperature: 3°C

Swell: N/A

Sea state: Calm

Wind: W 2

Weather: Sunny

Another day dawned with the promise of further excitement as *Hondius* slid gently towards the proposed landing site at Sundneset on Barentsøya (Barents Island). Guides were up early, scanning the coastline from the bridge looking for signs of 'white furry creatures'. The landscape was reported clear and it was safe to land. After breakfast the operation commenced as Zodiacs shuttled backwards and forwards from ship to shore ferrying camera and backpack festooned passengers to our next adventure. Drivers skillfully negotiated hazards of the rock-strewn shore to land everyone to the obvious interest of several reindeer who wandered close to the landing area to watch the proceedings. Cameras clicked to take advantage of the superb photo opportunity.



Three walks were planned so we opted for either long, medium, or short. Raphaël led the long walkers on a challenging hike across the tundra followed by a lengthy climb to the dizzy heights of the mountain overlooking the entire area. Bill and Adam split the medium hikers into two groups who then walked in opposite directions around a loop encompassing the high, rock-strewn ridges, partly frozen lakes and a photogenic hut. The short walk ambled around the landing area looking at moss, flowers, and stones, and observing some resting reindeer on a snow bank above the beach.

This landing was a chance to experience the landscape and wildlife of Svalbard up close. The list of species observed was remarkable... purple sandpiper, rock ptarmigan, long tailed duck, reindeer (over 65 counted), pink-footed geese, barnacle geese, king eider, grey phalarope, Arctic skua, black guillemot, black legged kittiwake, Arctic tern, red throated diver, snow bunting and Arctic foxes....wow!



In the afternoon, serious education as recreation from Adam and Meike. Adam with a lecture about Benjamin Leigh Smith and Meike about Auks in the Arctic...both were well attended.



Bill delivered a 'late night' after dinner lecture on 'Whaling and Sealing in the Arctic'. Using statistics and stories this was a sad tale of the death and destruction of whales, seals, walrus, men, vessels, and business.

Another brilliant day ended with everyone delighted with their experiences. Wow again!









Day 7: 27th of June 2019

Camp Millar, Bellsund, and Fagerbukta

GPS Position at 08:00: 77°48.8'N, 15°07.9'E

Air temperature: 3°C

Sea temperature: 6°C

Swell: 1 m

Sea state: Calm

Wind: NW 4

Weather: Cloudy

After beautiful encounters with blue whales at around 1 am in the morning, we continued sailing north to Bellsund; named after the bell-shaped mountain at the entrance to the fjord. The plan this morning was to go ashore at Camp Millar. Michael woke us up early and invited us for a delicious breakfast, the last breakfast on this voyage while enjoying a true Arctic view.

After breakfast we disembarked using the gangways as the weather conditions were a little rough for the shell doors; a new experience that went smoothly. Once on the water, we could see the little auks and common guillemots flying back and forth to the high cliffs where they make their nests.



On shore we headed off in our different hiking groups, hikes with different length walks along the beach and across the slopes of Camp Millar. All the groups had time to look at the beautiful landscape. Kittiwakes and glaucous gulls were sighted and even a nest of Artic skuas was spotted in the tundra.

Up on the slopes everyone had good views of reindeer as they made their way across the rich tundra. At this time of year, they are beginning to gather together for the rut, the mating season here on Svalbard. The male had great antlers and was closely following by females. A great photo opportunity as the reindeer started moving and everybody was able to have a good look at them. What a great end to the morning here at Camp Millar.

While we were having lunch *Hondius* sailed towards her next destination, Recherchefjorden for a landing at Fagerbukta. The weather conditions were good in the shelter of the bay and as we sailed in, we could see the Recherchebreen stretching back into the mountains. This 16 km long glacier has many tributaries and terminates in a small lagoon behind the terminal moraine.

The first group to go ashore were those of us enjoyed a perimeter landing where the guides provided a safe area for us to free roam while they kept a watchful eye on both passengers and the surrounding hills.

The other group landed on the right side of the bay and headed up to the moraines to see how far they could get towards the glacier itself. They were able to head towards a good look out over the lagoon towards the glacier.



In the lagoon there were stranded icebergs that had calved off the face of the glacier and were on the beach and floating in the lagoon. It was nice to be able to spend time exploring the area and taking photos of the ice and surrounding landscape before the big event of the afternoon, The Polar Plunge.

By 3:15 most people gathered to take part in and witness the Polar Plunge, a chance to take a swim in the icy waters of the Arctic. Amid screams and laughter there were plenty of participants willing to brave the plunge so well done to you all! Back on board, and after hot showers, it was time for those end of trip activities; paying bills and returning boots and lifejackets!

In the evening we were invited to the lounge for a cocktail with the Captain; a chance to toast a very successful voyage and to share our memories with fellow passengers. A true Arctic expedition, being flexible to the weather and sea conditions. Together we have overcome the natural challenges of fog and ice but we managed to find a Plan A, B, C or even D. These choices, like travelling south instead of going north, opened up new opportunities; we were the first ship to sail through Freemansundet this year and to explore the icy lands of Nordasutlandet beyond.

It has been a fantastic trip with some wonderful and varied encounters with polar bears on the pack ice, as well as some memorable meetings with walrus, beluga, and reindeer in the stunning surroundings of Svalbard.

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





Day 8: 28th of June 2019

Disembarkation: Longyearbyen

GPS position: 78°13.7'N, 15°36.0'E

Air temperature: 3°C

Sea temperature: 7°C

Swell: N/A

Sea state: Calm

Wind: NW 2

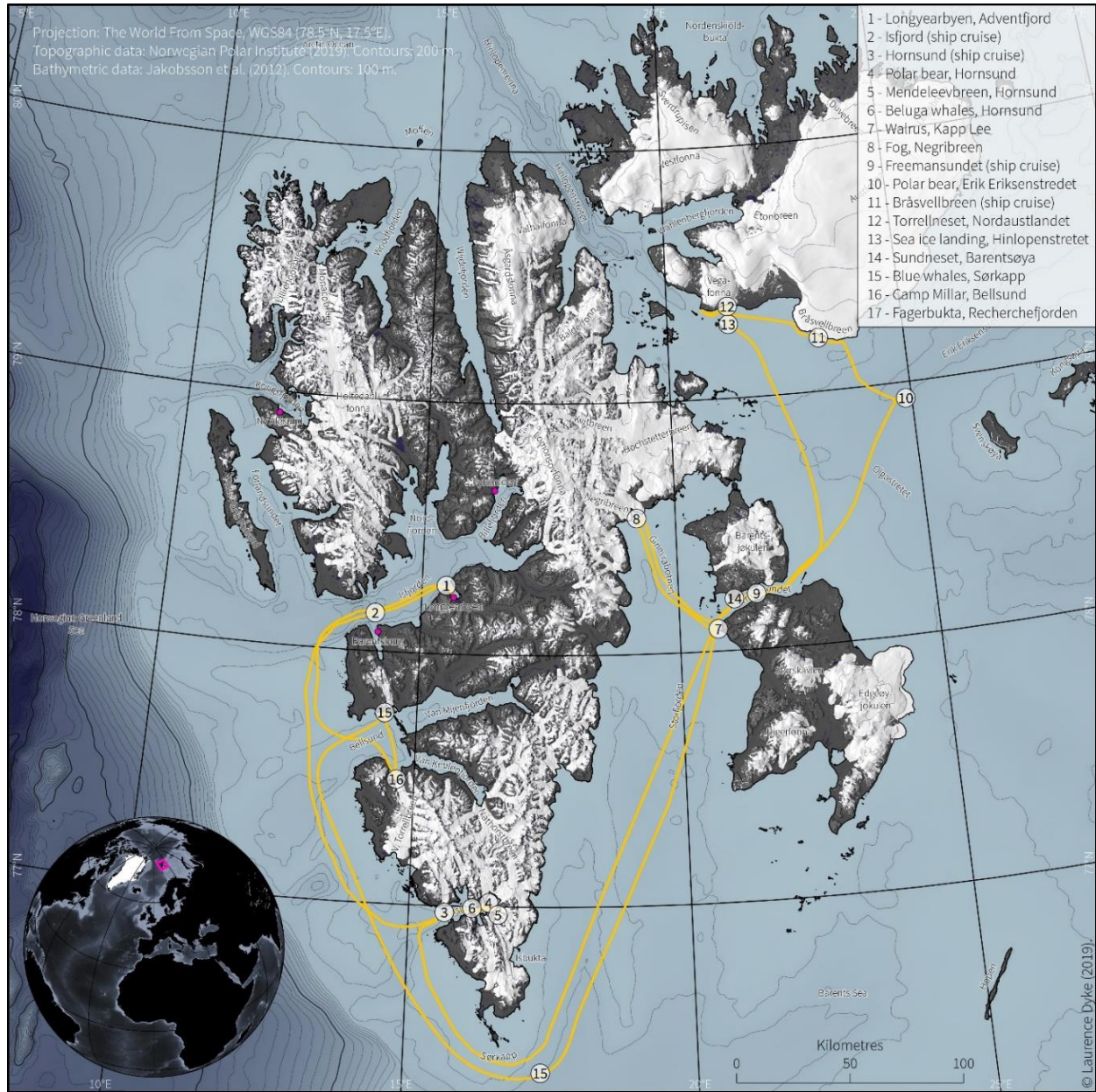
Weather: Cloudy

The midnight sun woke us up for the last time and we found ourselves back in little Longyearbyen. This cruise has affected us all in different ways, we leave with many pictures, new friends, and most importantly, unforgettable impressions and everlasting memories. This trip was fun, strenuous, but worthwhile. It was incredible to meet the 'King of the Arctic'. We also learned a lot about this beautiful and fragile ecosystem of the Arctic.

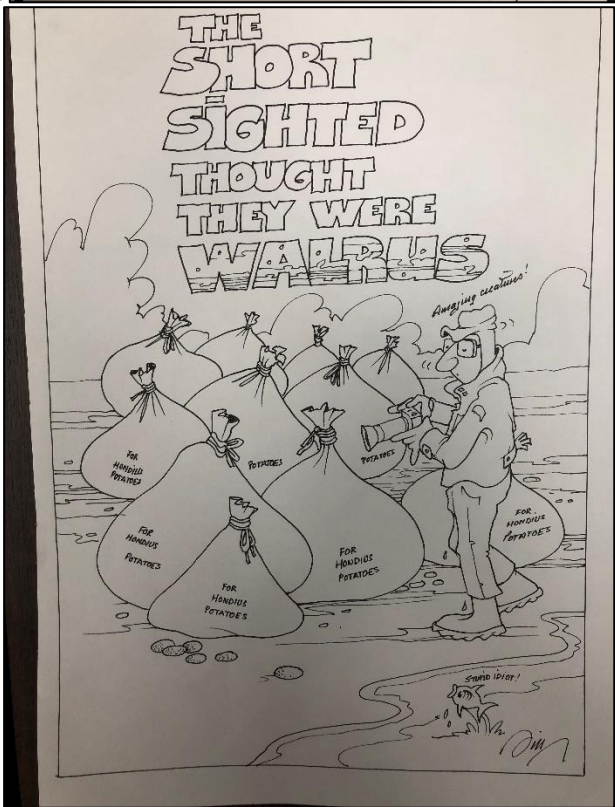
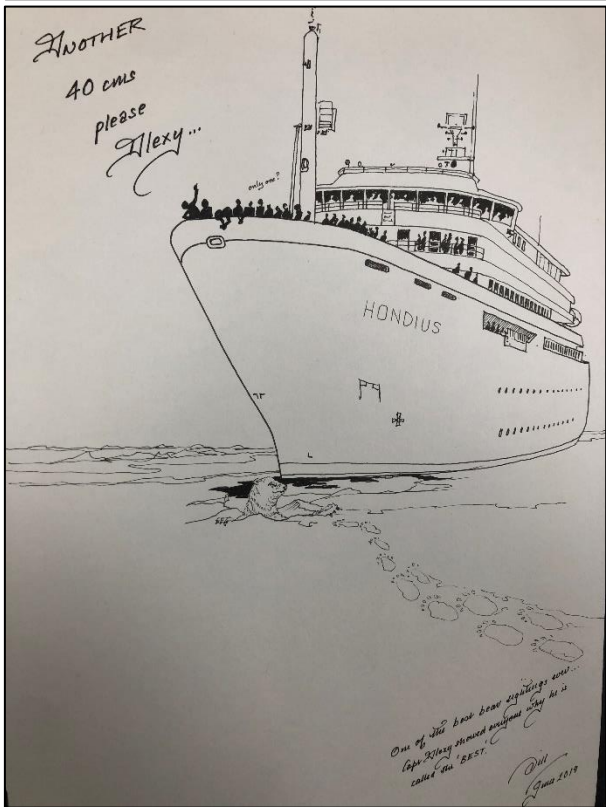
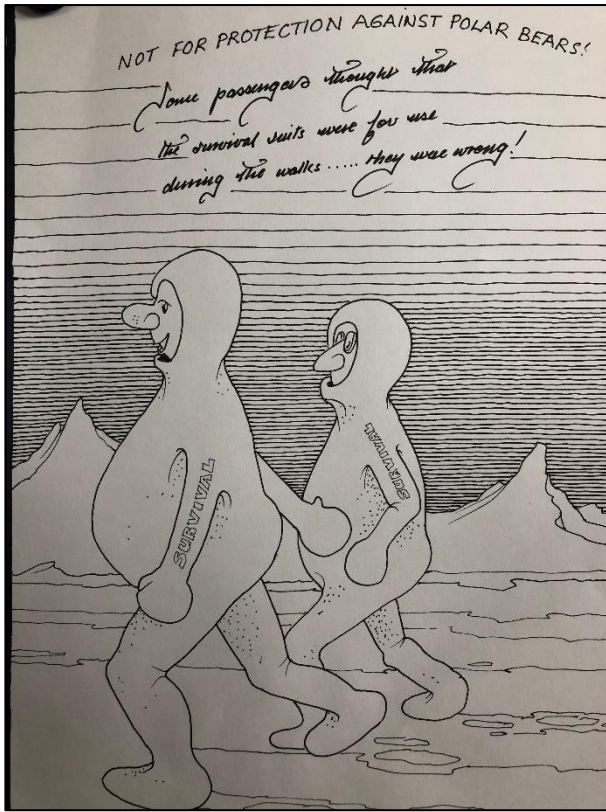
It's finally time to say goodbye. On Hawaii they say 'never say goodbye, but always hello', on Svalbard we say nothing- Norwegians are usually not particularly talkative... However, we hope to see you again in the North or South, or somewhere in between!

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





Total Distance sailed: 1039 Nautical Miles





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

Birds and Mammals of Svalbard 21-27 June 2019

English Name	Latin	German	French	中文	Dutch	21-06	22-06	23-06	24-06	25-06	26-06	27-06
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin	红喉潜鸟	Roodkeelduiker						x	
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	北方暴风鹱	Noordse stormvogel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court	粉脚雁	Kleine rietgans				x	x	x	x
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernache nonnette	白颊黑雁	Brandgans		x			x	x	x
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	欧绒鸭	Eidereend	x	x	x		x		x
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	王绒鸭	Konings eider						x	
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Eisente	Harelde boréale	长尾野鸭	Ilseend			x			x	
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus hyperboreus</i>	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin	岩雷鸟	Alpensneeuwhoen						x	
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	剑鸻	Bontbekplevier						x	
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré	欧洲黄金鸭	Goudplevier						x	
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	紫滨鹬	Paarse strandloper			x			x	x
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Thorshühnchen	Phalarope à bec large	灰瓣蹼鹬	Rosse franjepoot			x			x	
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin	中贼鸥	Middelste jager					x		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Schmarotzerraub-möwe	Labbe parasite	短尾贼鸥	Kleine jager	x	x	x		x	x	x
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	长尾贼鸥	Kleinste jager		x					
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	大贼鸥	Grote jager			x				x
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	北极鸥	Grote Burgemeester			x	x	x		x
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	三趾鸥	Drieteenmeeuw	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Elfenbeinmöwe	Mouette blanche	象牙鸥	Ivoormeeuw		x					
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	北极燕鸥	Noordse stern		x	x		x	x	x
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	厚嘴海鸦	Dikbekzeekoet	x			x	x		x
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	白翅斑海鸕/黑海鸕	Zwarte zeekoet	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	小海雀	Kleine alk	x	x		x	x		x
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	海鹦	Papegaaiduiker	x	x					
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	雪鹀	Sneeuwgor	x		x			x	x

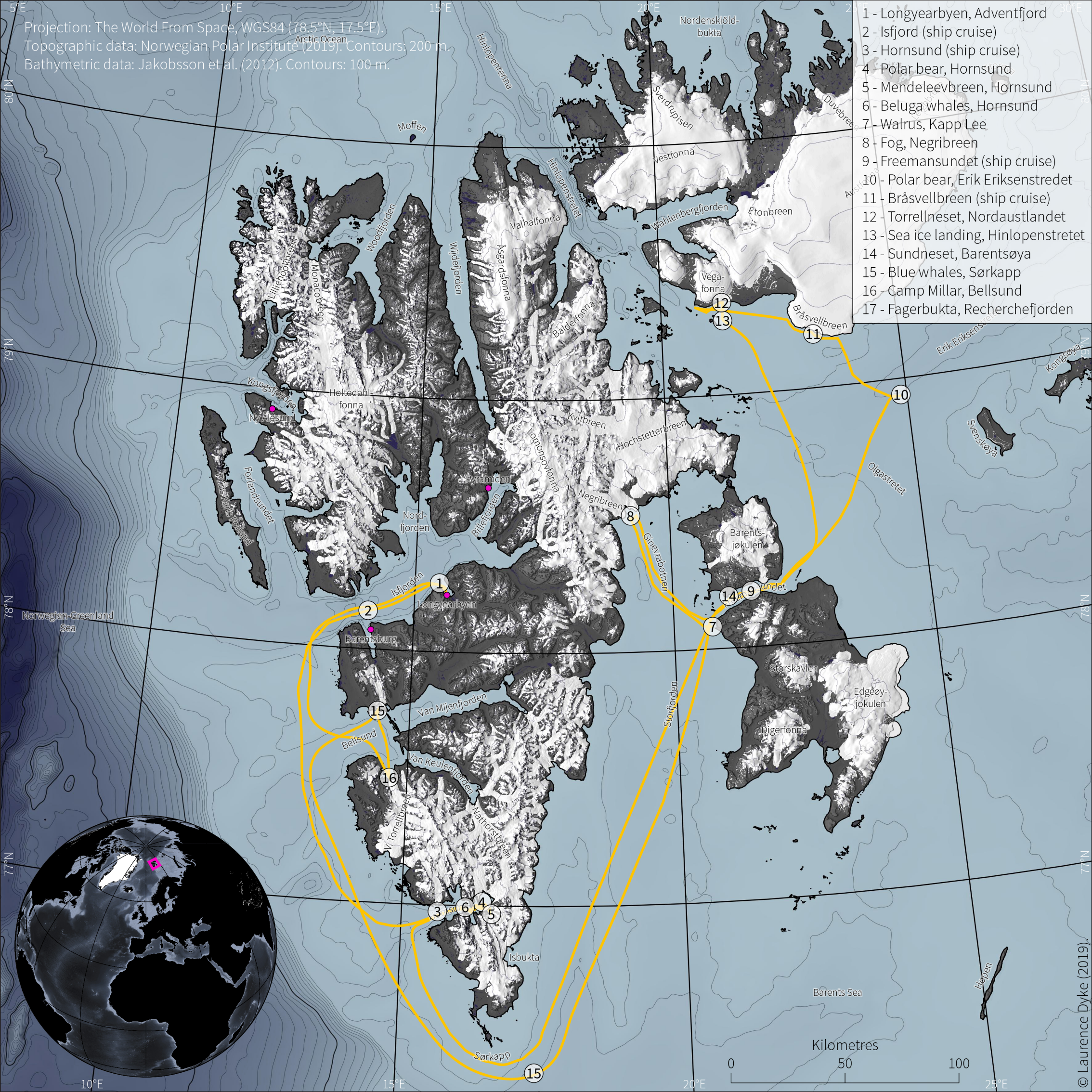
MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	中文	Dutch							
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walross	Morse	海象	Walrus			x	x	x		
Bearded seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	Bartrobbe	Phoque barbu	髯海豹	Baardrob			x	x			
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	环斑海豹	Ringelrob				x			
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	斑海豹	Gewone zeehond	x						
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Zwergwal	Petit rorqual	小须鲸	Dwergvinvis	x						
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	蓝鲸	Blauwe vinvis							x

Beluga	<i>Dehinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	白鯨	Beloega		x					
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	北极熊	Ijsbeer		x		x			
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	北极狐	Poolvos			x			x	x
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	北极驯鹿	Rendier			x			x	x

Projection: The World From Space, WGS84 (78.5°N, 17.5°E).
 Topographic data: Norwegian Polar Institute (2019). Contours: 200 m.
 Bathymetric data: Jakobsson et al. (2012). Contours: 100 m.

- 1 - Longyearbyen, Adventfjord
- 2 - Isfjord (ship cruise)
- 3 - Hornsund (ship cruise)
- 4 - Polar bear, Hornsund
- 5 - Mendeleevbreen, Hornsund
- 6 - Beluga whales, Hornsund
- 7 - Walrus, Kapp Lee
- 8 - Fog, Negribreen
- 9 - Freemansundet (ship cruise)
- 10 - Polar bear, Erik Eriksenstredet
- 11 - Bråsvellbreen (ship cruise)
- 12 - Torrellneset, Nordaustlandet
- 13 - Sea ice landing, Hinlopenstredet
- 14 - Sundneset, Barentsøya
- 15 - Blue whales, Sørkapp
- 16 - Camp Millar, Bellsund
- 17 - Fagerbukta, Recherchefjorden



Raphaël Sané - Expedition Leader



Raphaël has always been a nature passionate. He is interested in the observation and study of all living organisms from flower to whales but his main field of interest are vertebrates (birds, mammals, reptilians and amphibians). Graduate in hydrobiology, he has always been involved in naturalist associations either as volunteer or employee.

In parallel, he took part in several scientific or adventure expeditions in the Polar Regions (Siberia, Greenland, Canada and Svalbard), the steppes of Kazakhstan and Morocco and the Peruvian jungle. In 2003, he carried out an old dream: cycling through Latin America for 20 months.

Raphaël first came on board a cruise ship as lecturer in 2000. Since then, he has been embarking either as naturalist guide or expedition leader on many destinations (the Arctic, Antarctica and the tropics). When he is not navigating, Raphaël carries out personal projects (field assistant for nature conservation projects, photography, edition, journeys, etc.) or just enjoy life at home in Provence.

Adam Turner, FRGS - Assistant Expedition Leader



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.

Iain Rudkin - Assistant Expedition Leader



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!

Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide



From early on Meike has been a passionate naturalist and traveller who just loves birds.

At the age of 7 she bought her first bird book. Being outdoors all the time, she wanted to learn more about the amazing creatures she encountered. Investigating and learning about nature and wildlife has been a passion ever since.

Meike has a master degree in film and television from the University of Utrecht. For the last 25 years she has been working as a television director. Her stories involve nature, wildlife and environmental topics. If not travelling she is directing the prime-time wildlife television program Vroege Vogels.

When time permits, she volunteers as a nature guide for the Dutch institute for nature and education. As a teenager Meike started sailing the oceans but her true love for the life in the oceans began 14 years ago when she started working with Sea Shepherd on the mediateam.

Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip, and looking forward to sharing knowledge and the passion for this magical polar world with you.

Miriam Vermeij - Expedition Guide



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.

Marcel Paul - Expedition Guide



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.

Sara Jenner - Expedition Guide



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.

Szymon Niezabitowski - Expedition guide



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.

Rosalie Steffen - Expedition Guide



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 lead 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.

Jerry Zhao - Expedition Guide



Soon after completing his degree in Business Administration at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Jerry began a career in the travel industry. Jerry first started as an international travel consultant and tour leader and led exclusive small high-end guests throughout Europe. He then became partner in an international travel consulting firm and focused on employee training.

Searching for more adventure, Jerry joined a Chinese travel agency specializing in Polar regions as a project manager. He has travelled to the North Pole several times on the Russian ice breaker and has organized yacht charters to

Antarctica and along the way he has studied the geography, wildlife and history of the Polar regions

Laurence Dyke - Expedition Guide



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.

Bill Smith - Expedition Guide



“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.

Lauke Bisschops - Ship's Doctor



Lauke was born in the southern part of the Netherlands and undertook her medical training at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. After completing medical school, she specialized in emergency medicine and worked for 5 years in the ER. However, because she liked working with the elderly, she later specialized and became an elderly care physician (which is different from Geriatrics and is only a specialization in the Netherlands).

She founded a medical organization which offers expedition and wilderness courses and congresses. And for the last few years she combined work and adventure. She worked as a ships doctor for Oceanwide, as a doctor for a tv program in the Filipins and as a doctor for motor races in the Netherlands. Since coming on the first trip in 2017 to the Artic she has been bitten by the Polar bug and every year she comes back for at least one trip. She was overwhelmed and fell in love with the remoteness of the area. It is so special and not comparable to anything else! When time permits she enjoys reading, hiking, traveling and hulahooping.

Omblin Chabasseur - Expedition Guide



Always attracted by sports in nature, her passion for Polar Regions really started when she decided to live in Finland to finish her studies. From then, Omblin dedicated all her free time to these areas, first of all in Svalbard, then Greenland, and she finally worked in a travel agency specialized in these regions, where she created on-demand trips.

Little by little, with the experience, the motivation and the knowledge, Omblin decided to quit the indoor job to spend more than 6 months per year on the field in order to guide small groups in hiking or

kayak trips and share passion and awareness.

She learnt by herself a lot, so her interests are wide. She became generalist to answer all kind of questions, which can be about flora, fauna, history or Arctic geopolitics. When she has free time, Omblin tries to escape several weeks to explore new areas, mainly in kayak.

She joined expedition cruises about 8 years ago and has been able to sail on different ships going to Svalbard, Greenland, Nunavut, Russia but also Antarctica, South Georgia, Falklands Islands and lately in tropical region aswell!

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 21 - June 28, 2019

Day 1, June 21, Friday: Boarding and departure from Longyearbyen

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

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

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| ±17.30 (TBA) | Welcome briefing in the lounge (deck 5). Expedition leader Raph and hotel manager Michael and will introduce you to life on board the Hondius. This will be followed by a mandatory 'Safety at Sea' briefing and abandon ship drill. |
| ±18.00 (TBA) | Departure of the Hondius. Please stay off the bridge during these operations, which will be followed by the mandatory emergency briefing and the safety drill (please pay attention to the announcements). |
| 19.30 | Dinner is served in the dining room (deck 4). |
| ±21.15 (TBA) | After dinner, feel free to relax in the lounge, enjoy the navigation, discover the ship... |

The first part of the evening we will sail through the large Isfjord towards the open sea. Then we head south, along the outer coast of Spitsbergen, towards Hornsund. The total distance will be around 125 nautical miles (1 nm. is around 1,9 kilometres) to reach our destination: Brepollen.

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!

(TBA) = To Be Announced

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 21 - June 28, 2019

Day 2, June 22, Saturday Hornsund – Brepollen & Burgebukta

07.30	Wake-up call.
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4), for one hour.
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
TBA	Boot distribution by deck. Please pay attention to the announcements.
12.30	Lunch
+/-14.30 – 17.30	Zodiac-cruise and landing in Burgerbukta 14:30 - GREEN group go ashore 14:45 – RED group go for a zodiac cruise It will be a 1h-long zodiac cruise and a 1h15-long landing
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team followed by a Captain's cocktail in the lounge
19.30	Dinner

Later in the morning, we arrive in the Hornsund. This is the southernmost fjord of Spitzbergen. The end of this fjord is called Brepollen and is surrounded by many glaciers. Our plan is to arrive by one of them for the breakfast and enjoy the view! Then we'll sail around on the morning. On the afternoon, we plan to do a zodiac cruise and a landing in Burgerbukta, a side fjord branching off the northern side of Hornsund. There is another beautiful glacier at the bottom we would like to approach both by land and by the sea. It is also usually a good place to see small drifting icebergs.

(TBA) = To Be Announced

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 21 - June 28, 2019

Day 3, June 23, Sunday Kap Lee and Negribreen

07.00	Wake-up call
07.00 – 08.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
08.00 - 12.00	Landing at Kapp Lee GREEN GROUP: disembarkation at 08.00 RED GROUP: disembarkation at 10.00
08.45	Lecture about “Sea Ice” given by Iain for the RED group in the lecture room
10.30	Lecture about “Sea Ice” given by Iain for the GREEN group in the lecture room
12.30	Lunch
+/-16.00	Hondius is approaching Negribreen Pay attention to announcement regarding activities
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.00	Dinner

On the morning, Kapp Lee – also known as Dolerittneset – is a place with nice tundra where Reindeers like to graze. There are also few cultural remains from the Russian Pomor people dating back to the 16th century and whale bones scattered on the ground. But it is most of all a renown haul-out site for the walrus. Group of this species are regularly seen having a rest on the beach.

On the afternoon, we will sail around Negribreen, a massive glacier 11 km wide located 35 km northwards. It can be very active and the bay is often filled with different kind of ice: growlers, bergy bits, fast ice... All this ice makes the place very attractive to the seals and the Polar Bear...

(TBA) = To Be Announced

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 21 - June 28, 2019

Day 4, June 24, Sunday To the Sea Ice and Nordaustlandet

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
12.30	Lunch
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.00	Dinner

Today it is a full expedition day!

Our goal is to go to the eastern side of the Svalbard archipelago in the direction of the pack ice and to Nordaustlandet, the second biggest island in Svalbard, mostly covered with a huge ice cap.

Our preferred way to do so is to go through the Fremansundet, this narrow channel running between Edge Island and Barents Island.

But if the Fremansundet happens to be blocked by ice then we will sail back along the west coast of Edge Island and then to the South-East of this island, where pack ice is also present.

Any nice navigation, outing or lecture will be announced through the PA system.

(TBA) = To Be Announced

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 21 - June 28, 2019

Day 5, June 25, Monday Torrellneset and Ice Landing

07.00	Wake-up call
07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
08.30 – 12.30	Landing at Torrellneset (Nordaustlandet or North-East Land) LONG WALK: Disembarkation at 08.30 MEDIUM WALK: Disembarkation at 09.15 SHORT WALK: Disembarkation at 09.45
12.30	Lunch
TBA	Sea Ice landing
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.00	Special Arctic Dinner

Today, we want to go out of the ship and stretch our legs!

In the morning, 3 options are possible according to our capabilities and personal interest. It will be a nice opportunity for everybody to go out and to discover a true polar desert and wildlife (walrus and reindeer possible).

The long walkers will go for a 3 to 4h walk (an estimated 150 to 250m elevation gain, 7 to 9 km, 2.5 to 3h of effective walk). They will disembark on a small beach, go first to the ice cap, walk on it, then walk on the polar desert and finish at a walrus haul-out site, where they will reembark.

The medium walkers will go for a 2 to 2.5h walk (an estimated 50 to 100m elevation gain, 5km, 1 to 1.5h of effective walk). They will disembark on a small beach, go first to the ice cap, walk on it and then go straight to a walrus haul-out site through the polar desert where they will reembark.

The short walkers will disembark at the walrus haul-out site and stroll around for a while.

On the afternoon, we will try to find a suitable sea ice plate to disembark and try to walk on the (frozen) water! According to the ice condition disembarkation will be with zodiacs or from the ship. Please, pay attention to the announcements.

On the evening, we will sail southwards by the sea ice in search of the Polar Bear while having a Special Arctic Dinner!

(TBA) = To Be Announced

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 21 - June 28, 2019

Day 6, June 26, Wednesday Sundneset

All the timings given hereby are subject to delays, depending on our navigation in the ice to reach our destination.

07.00	Wake-up call
07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
08.30 – 12.30	Landing at Sundneset (Barents Island) LONG WALK: Disembarkation at 08.30 MEDIUM WALK: Disembarkation at 09.15 SHORT WALK: Disembarkation at 09.45
12.30	Lunch
14.30	Lecture about Auks in the Arctic by Meike
16.30	Lecture about The Forgotten Explorer – Benjamin Leigh Smith, by Adam
18.30	Recap and briefing with your expedition team in the Lounge (deck 5)
19.00	Dinner in the dining room (Deck 4)
21.15 – 22.15	BBC Documentary “The Hunt” about the predators of the Arctic

To reach Sundneset we need to go back through the Freemansundet (the channel between Barents Island to the North and Edge Island to the South). We'll meet sea ice again on our way and depending on how fast we will go, we will hopefully be able to do a morning operation. In the base case scenario, we will follow the timing. Worse-case scenario: if we arrive after 10.00, then we will not disembark...

In the morning, 3 options are possible according to our capabilities and personal interest.

The long walkers will go for a 3 to 4h round-trip with an estimated 300-350m elevation gain, 7 to 8 km, 2.5 to 3h of effective walk on a good terrain with boggy and snowy areas possible.

The medium walkers will go for a 2 to 2.5h round-trip with an estimated 50 to 100m elevation gain, 5km, 1 to 1.5h of effective walk). Swampy areas are likely to occur together with snowy patches.

The short walkers will stroll around for a while.

The rest of the day will be educational, with lectures, briefings, recaps and a superb documentary on the evening!

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 21 - June 28, 2019

Day 7, June 27, Thursday Camp Millar and Fagerbukta

All the timings given hereby are subject to delays, depending on any whale watching activity during the night.

07.00	Wake-up call
07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
08.30 – 12.00	Landing at Camp Millar in the (Bellsund, Spitsbergen) LONG WALK: Disembarkation at 08.30 MEDIUM and SHORT WALK: Disembarkation at 09.15
12.00	Lunch
13.30 – 16.00	Landing at FAGERBUKTA in Recherchefjorden (Bellsund, Spitsbergen) WALKERS: Disembarkation at 13.30 NON-WALKERS and SWIMMERS: 14.00
15.00 – 22.00	Settlement of your account at reception (Deck 4)
16.30-17.30	BBC Documentary “The Hunt” about the predators of the Arctic
18.00	Captain’s farewell cocktail with the Captain and your expedition team in the Lounge (deck 5)
19.00	Dinner in the dining room (Deck 4)

The night before reaching Camp Millar, we will sail in an interesting area for whales. In case of whale encounter and watching, we might be delayed and timing for the morning operation would change accordingly: please, pay attention to the announcements...

In the morning, 2 options are possible according to your capabilities and personal interest. All options offer a stunning landscape, lot of flowers, many birds, likely reindeer and possibly Arctic Fox.

The long walkers will go for an approx. 3h-long walk with an estimated 100-150m elevation gain, 5-6 km, 2h of effective walk on a good terrain with boggy areas possible and a steep slope to reach a Little Auk colony.

The medium and short walkers will go for a 2.5h walk with an estimated 50 to 100m elevation gain, 2km, 1h of effective walk, good terrain. For those interested and fit, it will be possible to climb uphill to an altitude of about 100m on a steep grassy slope to have a nice view and observe a Little Auk colony.

The afternoon, we will disembark on the sandy beach of Fagerbukta. It will be a nice way to say goodbye to Svalbard! Those interested in a walk will reach a moraine which provides a nice viewpoint over a glacier (3 km, 2h, 100m high). The others will leisurely stroll on the beach, enjoying the scenery and, if they want to, having a polar plunge (towels provided on the beach; no polar plunge possible if your involved in the walk)!

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 21 - June 28, 2019

Day 8, June 28, Friday Longyearbyen

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 07.00 | Wake-up call |
| 07.30 | Please put your heavy luggage in the corridor near your cabin, at the latest at 07.30 . The crew and staff will carry it down to the pier. |
| 07.30 – 08.30 | Breakfast |
- Please leave your key-card holder at the reception.
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| +/-08.30 (TBA) | Time to say goodbye! All passengers leave the ship via the gangway. |
|----------------|---|

All passengers will disembark with zodiacs. We recommend you to wear your waterproof pant although no much wind is forecasted. Don't forget your lifejacket, you will leave it ashore.

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 **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. You do not need an extra label for the luggage.
- Passengers going to a hotel put their luggage into the bus. You will be dropped in the town centre near the Svalbard Butikken. Please attach label nr 1 on your luggage.
- Passengers with their own transport, also attach label nr 1 on your luggage.

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!