



Around Spitsbergen

on board

m/v *Hondius*

July 5th – July 14th 2019



The MV *Hondius* was built in 2019 in Brodosplit, Croatia, as an expedition vessel for Oceanwide Expeditions. *Hondius* is 107.60m long, 17,60m wide and has a maximum draught of 5.3m and has an exceptionally high Ice class of PC6, a top speed of 15 knots and 3 diesel generators. The *Hondius* sails on LSMGO. Now the ship is sailing as a 176-passenger vessel with 83 cabins. Our beautiful, modern vessel carries 369m³ of fresh water and has a water plant producing 70m³ per day. In many ways, the *Hondius* is the perfect vessel for a true polar adventure!

Captain Alexey Nazarov

and his international crew of 69

including

First Officer:	Matei Mocanu	[Romania]
Staff Officer:	Toni Salo	[Finland]
Second Officer:	Diederik Scholten	[The Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Igor Nazarov	[Russia]
Chief Engineer:	Sebastian Alexandru	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Michael Frauendorfer	[Austria]
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Dejan Nikolic	[Serbia]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Gaurav Bawa	[India]
Ship's Physician:	Tom Matthews	[The Netherlands]

and

Expedition Leader:	Raphaël Sané	[France]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Florence Kuyper	[The Netherlands]
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Adam Turner	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Sara Jenner	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Omblin Chabasseur	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Jerry Zhao	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Chloé Maréchal	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Leonard Dewaele	[Belgium]
Expedition Guide:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxemburg]
Expedition Guide:	Mariela Cornejo	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Szymon Niezabitowski	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Melissa Scott	[USA]

We welcome you on board!

Day 1: 05th July 2019

Embarkation, Longyearbyen

GPS position at 0800: 78°13'.62 N, 015°38'.50 E

Wind: SSE8 Sea State: slight Weather: rainy

Air Temp: +5 °C Sea Temp: +7 °C

For many of us, the dream of reaching the high latitudes of the Arctic was finally coming true. As the different planes were arriving, it was impossible to stop looking out of the windows to the mountains, glaciers and beautiful scenery of the Svalbard archipelago.



Once in town, the excitement to finally board the new vessel, our home for the next ten days, didn't stop us from visiting the Svalbard Museum, the local coffee shop, or just walking around the town streets with a real "expedition spirit", as the rain and wind challenged our endurance.

Since Longyearbyen's foundation as a coal-mining settlement in 1906 by John Munro Longyear, it has been the starting point for many historic and pioneering expeditions. The town has a permanent population of around 2,200 residents but this number increases significantly during the summer with the arrival of thousands of cruise ship tourists ready to explore the archipelago of Svalbard.



Between 16:00 and 17:00 hours, everybody arrived to the MV Hondius, where the Oceanwide crew and staff were waiting for us to start our adventure. The rain and the wind created a special atmosphere at the port, reminding us of the remote territories we were about to explore. After being led to our cabins by the Hotel crew, we

gathered at the Observation Lounge to meet our Expedition Leader, Raphael, and take part on the Safety Briefings with the Chief Officer, Matei.

We were now officially ready to lift our mooring lines and sail away Northbound. The welcome dinner was the perfect opportunity for toasting to the adventure that had just started, before getting a good night of sleep to prepare for the next morning activity.



Day 2: 6th July 2019

Lilliehöökreen and Ny Ålesund

GPS position at 0800: 79°19'.3 N, 011°37'.9 E

Wind: NE1 Sea State: Calm Weather: Sunny

Air Temp: +12 °C Sea Temp: +5 °C

Overnight we had sailed north past Prins Karls Forland and up into Krossfjord, thankfully the waters were calm and we had a good night's rest in preparation for our first true day of expedition.



As breakfast was being served, we cruised in to Lilliehöökfjord, the sun was shining brightly on the calm, turquoise waters as we headed towards Lilliehöökreen, this is the largest glacier in Krossfjord with its 11km wide, semi - circular glacier front. Interestingly this is one of the fastest retreating glaciers in the archipelago, with an estimated 40% of the total ice volume of the glacier being lost within a century, with an accelerating tendency in recent years. Despite this dramatic development Lilliehöökreen is certainly one of the scenic highlights of this area so most headed to the outside decks after breakfast to marvel at this natural wonder and enjoy the glorious weather we were being blessed with.

At 9:30am we gathered in the lounge for the three mandatory briefs which are needed before going a shore, AECO Arctic protocol, zodiac operations and polar bear safety After which we headed down to Deck 3, to collect our muck boots and life jackets in preparation for our first landing. Just as the last few guests were collecting their boots, an announcement was made to say that our first Polar Bear had been spotted for the voyage. As anticipated, this caused great excitement and everyone wrapped up warmly and hurried outside. The bear could be seen resting on a small island, close to small hut. We approached a little closer but were then



informed by the expedition staff that we would have to hold our position because the island was in fact a protected bird sanctuary and that to stay within the strict regulations, we would need to maintain a minimum distance of 300m. Despite only being a few pixels in our cameras, it was very humbling to see this beautiful creature relaxing in the sunshine and looking completely at ease on

this little island, indeed a very promising start to the voyage.



Over lunch we sailed into Kongsfjorden so as to be in position for our afternoon landing at Ny Ålesund. This former coal mining village is now a scientific community operating under the Norwegian Polar Institute research governance and is considered to be the most northern settlement in the

world.

We were shuttled ashore by zodiac and given time to wander around the museum, visit the small souvenir shop and send post cards home to loved ones before having the option to join one of the three designated walks.





For those wanting a proper leg stretch they headed off with Omblin and some of the other expedition staff to a distant ridge behind the town which gave magnificent views back down across Kongsfjorden and the opportunity to see one of the many hanging glaciers of Svalbard.



There were also two shorter walks which stayed on lower terrain that focused more on the abundance of flowers and birdlife that could be spotted, Arctic Terns, Barnacle Geese, Eider Ducks, Long Tailed Skua and Atlantic Puffins were amongst the species to be spotted. For those more attracted by the larger creatures they were able to tick off their first Svalbard

Reindeer and Harbour Seals of the voyage. All three groups went via the mast that was used to anchor a Zeppelin airship in 1926 which is found on the edge of the town. This provided the perfect place for the historians within the expedition team to talk a little bit about the history of Arctic exploration and the attempts to reach the North Pole from Spitsbergen.





Back on board, Raphael led a short recap where he explained the plans for tomorrow. After which it was time to meet our captain, Alexey Nazarov, who joined us in the observation lounge to welcome us on board and toast the success of the rest of the voyage with a glass of bubbly.

After another delicious dinner most people head up to the bar to reflect on the day's events and to enjoy a nightcap to celebrate the first successful expedition day. Just as we were thinking about calling it a day and retiring to bed there was an announcement to say that

some whales had been spotted in the distance. As we made our way onto the outside decks, we could see the sea was broken by the huge back of a blue whale, the largest animal on the planet. We spent almost an hour in the



company of two of these gentle giants, watching them feast on a bountiful Arctic buffet beneath the waves. Just as we were about to leave them two Fin Whales came into sight, the second largest baleen whale. As they fed around the bow of the ship, we could appreciate

their sheer size and asymmetrical white colouration as they turned on their side to lunge feed. Finally, it was time to bid them farewell and get some sleep ourselves in preparation for another action-packed expedition day.



Day 3: 7th July 2019

Bjørnfjorden in front of Smeerenburgbreen glacier and Ytre Norskøya

GPS position at 0800: 79°39'.3 N, 011°06'.5 E

Wind: SSE1 Sea State: Calm Weather: overcast

Air Temp: +10 °C Sea Temp: +7 °C



When sailing into the Sorgattet sound on our way to Smeerenburgbreen (*Smeerenburg glacier*), we could not have wished for more agreeable weather: approximately +10°C, bright sunshine, and very little wind. This wonderful weather left us no reasons to stay aboard the ship and after yet another fine breakfast, we went on a zodiac safari exploring Bjørnfjorden, along the Smeerenburgbreen front; with a length of 8-10 km and a width of 3 km, one of the larger glaciers in the area.





The zodiac cruise did not disappoint us! Already after a few tens of minutes, we could marvel at the beauty of the white Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) with the equally white glacier as the perfect backdrop. Things got even better after seeing the gray back of a smaller whale: a

baby Beluga! Could we wish for anything better? Probably not! These belugas outshone the other animals that we saw this morning: Harbor Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) hauled out on the rocks, and Longtail Skuas (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).

Nice detail, Smeerenburg was a historically important Dutch whaling station and many geographical features in the area have been named after this station. The name Smeerenburg itself is derived from the Dutch word *Smeer*, translating to “grease” in English, and referring to the blubber and whale oil harvested from whales.

Over lunch, clouds drifted in. Without the sun, the afternoon excursions felt a little colder. Nevertheless, everyone had a fun afternoon on or around Ytre Norskøya (*Outer Norwegian Island*). Ytre Norskøya is renowned for its 17th century whalers’



graveyard and it boasts a nice Puffin colony (*Fratercula arctica*). Many went on a long hike on



the island, walked up to the highest point of the island and could enjoy viewing the bird colony on the cliff face underneath. Others went on shorter hikes or leisure walks and could not only enjoy walking on the island and having a view of the last remnants of the graveyard, but could also enjoy a zodiac cruise towards the cliff face and enjoy the Puffins from there.

Highlights for one of the medium hiking groups was to see how cruel nature can be when two Skuas were tearing at an Arctic tern they just killed.



Although there is currently very little left of the (legally protected) whalers' graveyard, scientific research of skeletons recovered from this site shed light on 17th century whalers' clothing and fashion, as well as on how whalers died during that time. Although whaling was a very dangerous job, this

scientific research pointed out that most of the whalers died of scurvy from malnutrition, rather than from accidents.

Engage your brain and imagine how unbearable this otherworldly place must have been to the men who came here, hoping to make a little more money than they could make back home.



Day 4: 8th July 2019

Hindlopen Strait, Alkefjellet and Polar bears

GPS position at 0800: 79°39'.1 N, 019°25'.6 E

Wind: N3 Sea State: Open drift ice Weather: Overcast

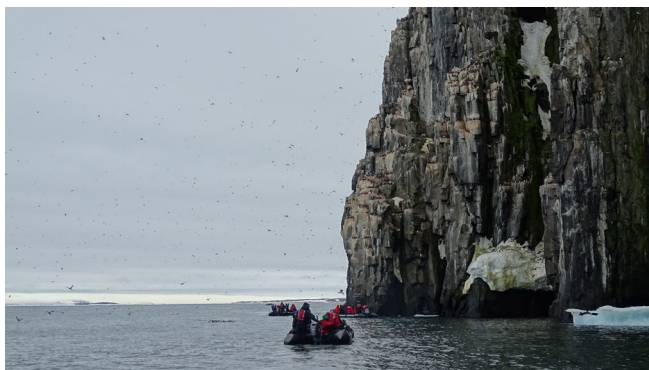
Air Temp: +6 °C Sea Temp: +2 °C



We were woken by Raph at 0730 amongst the ice at the Northern end of the Hindlopen Strait, a leisurely breakfast was followed by enjoying the sights from the ships as we searched for wildlife.

Sara gave a lecture on Polar Bears and a recap followed where we learned about the history of Svalbard from Omblin and the i-naturalist app from Leonard.

Lunch came around quickly and we could see the impressive cliffs of Alkefjellet in the distance, the next stop on our trip.



Guillemot.

After lunch we went on a zodiac cruise along the cliffs; these impressive stony giants which raise from the sea were formed 100-150 million years ago and are formed of limestone with dolerite intrusions and white marble giving them their impressive appearance; the structure also makes them the ideal home for an estimated 60,000 Brünnichs

We cruised along and we rewarded with the sight of Arctic foxes seeking food along the grassy



areas of the cliff foot. As we went along, we could begin to appreciate the scale of the cliffs, and the sheer number of birds nesting left

many speechless.



We returned to Hondius and began to sail away when Melissa spotted a mum and cub Polar bear on a small island. Raph, Flo and Adam with the swift assistance of the bridge and deck crews boarded a zodiac to see if an activity was possible. Key to wildlife watching is ensuring

that we don't disturb their natural behaviour, within a few minutes it was announced that we would undertake a short zodiac cruise. We were able to get closer to the bear and through binoculars could see that she was nursing her young cub who was less than one year old.

We returned, elated back to the ship where a BBQ dinner had been prepared for us. With a great day behind us we enjoyed the food, drink and lively atmosphere including music and dancing for those who were not too tired.



Day 5: 9th July 2019

Pack ice, Northernmost latitude

GPS position at 0800: 80°27'.0 N, 012°37'.4 E

Wind: SSW5 Sea State: ice Weather: cloudy

Air Temp: +4 °C Sea Temp: +1 °C

Today we started the day with a ship cruise going through the sea ice looking for polar bears and seals. The sea was very calm in between the ice floes and the weather was beautiful with the sun shining brightly and almost no wind. Our bear watch was rewarded at around 9am when a mother



and a yearling cub were spotted on the ice. The cub was very curious and actually made its way towards the ship for a little while before its mother got to him and brought him back to reason. He was quite a poser as he kept facing the ship and then rolled on the ice several times. Its mother then slowly started scouting the ice for seals and started walking parallel to the ship. Keeping a distance of about 50 m the cub then started to follow her and we could see them roaming across the ice floes, jumping on occasion. We had fantastic photographic opportunities with these bears on the ice and a beautiful sun. What a treat!



The cub was already out of the first danger zone which is the first year of life when still a high percentage of them are lost. But another dangerous period will come ahead, namely the time next year when he will leave his mother and will have to start hunting on its own. The success rate for young bears is even lower than for adults, so we wish him good luck as we watched them disappear in the distance.

During the morning we had a presentation by Melissa entitled “Big Ice” during which she walked us through the different types of ice we can encounter in the Arctic, the different

movements of ice and the actual situation and trends of ice in the Arctic. In the afternoon we had two more presentations: one by Adam on the history of Arctic explorations, specifically the expedition carried out by Lee Smith which involved the heroic story of Bob the dog which had quite intense encounters with polar bears and acted as a safeguard against these animals, but also informed the members of the expedition about walrus



presence. Later in the afternoon Leonard gave a presentation about adaptations of wildlife to life in the Arctic. And during the recaps we had short talks about the arctic fox, Svalbard climate, and 3 surprising things you can find in Arctic waters.

Day 6: 10th July 2019

Snatcherpynten and Varsölbukta

GPS position at 0800: 77°30'.8 N, 014°36'.2 E

Wind: E1 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast/Fog

Air Temp: 9°C Sea Temp: 7°C



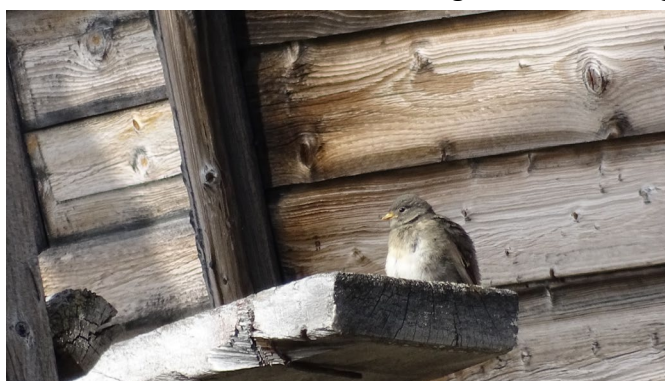
After having left the sea ice behind us the evening before, we sailed south throughout the night to awaken in beautiful Bellsund. This area of Spitsbergen island is ice-free most of the year because of the relatively warmer currents passing its shores from the south. For this reason, Bellsund has a rich human history beginning with the arrival of William Barents in 1596.

Our destination this morning was Recherchefjord, a short 8 km long fjord on the south side of the sound. It was here where we believe the first Europeans over-wintered in 1630, though quite by accident it seems. These poor men were inadvertently left behind when their whaling ship sailed away without them. They survived the winter near Renardbreen however the site has since been destroyed by an advancement of the glacier.



We came ashore at Snatcherpynten on the southwest side of the fjord where there was still standing an old building. It was built in 1904 by the Norwegian consul Johannes Gjøver with ideas of bringing tourists here which never actually happened. From here, the expedition team took us off to explore in different directions and with different goals. The long

hikers headed off at a quick pace in order to cover some distance and get some fantastic views from higher on the moraines near the foot of the mountains. The middle group took more time to explore along their way, not covering quite the distance and remaining lower down on the slopes in hope of encountering some wildlife. The leisurely group wandered along the





shoreline learning a bit about sea grasses and algae as well as looking for shells or other evidence of sea life washed up on the beach. Later they wandered a bit further away from the shore to explore the tundra and interesting permafrost patterns found in the areas closer to the sea. Some of the birds

observed were arctic skua, great skua, purple sandpiper, and snow bunting while a few reindeer were close by as well.

At the end of our time here, we had fun with our polar plunge. For those very adventuresome souls, this was their chance to take a dip in the frigid waters of the arctic and for others, the chance to cheer them on and document the event with cameras. It was great to see how many of the passengers chose to plunge – now officially indoctrinated as true arctic explorers. Afterward, it was back on board for a wonderful lunch and a hot shower.



In the afternoon, we arrived to the northern shores of the sound in Vårsolbukta and landed at Camp Millar. Here the NEC built 2 huts in hopes of finding gold in the boundary zone between metamorphic basement and sedimentary rocks above – to no avail. The huts today are used by a variety of visitors from researchers to filmmakers to tourists.



We again divided into 3 groups by interest and activity level and off we went to explore. The tundra here is quite rich and we found many reindeer comfortably grazing or resting nearby so were able to have a very nice visit with this endemic subspecies – Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus. A little further along, we even had the opportunity to see a few new calves of the year and witnessed some nursing behavior – so lovely to watch. The highlight for many,



however, were the playful arctic fox pups we encountered below the Little Auk colonies in the rocks above our track. What a treasure to see these beautiful arctic denizens as they frolicked about chewing on old bird wings or bones from long-dead reindeer. They were a bit curious and came closer than their parents may be comfortable with so we were able to capture some wonderful images that will add much to our memories of this

beautiful place. As they were still very grey and white, we learned that they must be less than 8 weeks old. This is about when they start to molt their fur and begin to take on the appearance of a mature fox. This coming winter will be a challenge for these new additions to the population but if they can persist through their first winter, life (though never easy) is more assured.



Day 7: 11th July 2019

Ice navigation through Storfjord and Kapp Lee

GPS position at 0800: 77°38'.4 N, 019°48'.0 E

Wind: SW3 Sea State: Calm Weather: Overcast / fog

Air Temp: 1 °C Sea Temp: 3 °C



At 7:45 we heard the wakeup call with following information about weather and our location. When we moved outside from our cabins, we found ourselves in very open sea ice. At the beginning, visibility was good at the morning but with time and a cold front coming, weather changed and around 10 o'clock our possibilities to see for long distance disappeared to only couple of dozen meters. After a tasty breakfast prepared by the galley team, we could participate in a wonderful

lecture presented by Florence about an amazing story of Willem Barents and the discovery of Spitsbergen. Later on, our expedition team prepared for us a series of short lectures: first started Leonard with a talk about seals, then Omblin about Salomon Andréé and the early exploration of Spitsbergen, and at the end Meike, talking about Northern Fulmars, true sea birds.



© Sara Jenner



At 12:30, Michael together with chef Ralf, invited us for lunch: a fine selection of salads and meat finished with superb dessert – coconut mousse. After a short break with full stomachs, we participated in a landing at Dolerittneset, enjoying amazing scenery and breathtaking history of 18th

Pomors hunting station and Scandinavian trapper settlement with Walrus graveyard at the background. During the short walk we were able to see whale bones which tell stories about whalers in the 17th century. However, not far away from the landing site, we could admire the biggest seal above the arctic circle: the Walrus, around 25 bewhiskered beasts were laying on the beach making funny noises and rolling from one side to another. After a successful landing, we went back to Hondius and Raphael, our expedition leader, gave us information about tomorrow activities and just after 7 pm, we sat comfortably in the dining room and again admiring food prepared by our chef Ralf.



During the evening, we sailed through Freemansundet channel between the pack-ice. With no wind and a mild fog, the scenery looked mystical. A perfect way to end this lovely day and to take a good rest before tomorrow's adventures await.



Day 8: 12th July 2019

Diskobukta, Dunerbukta and Negribreen

GPS position at 0800: 77°56'.0 N, 020°28'.1 E

Wind: SW4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 0 °C Sea Temp: 5 °C



Today was going to start with an early activity, a landing at Diskobukta with hikes between high cliffs home to a huge Kittiwake colony.



Weather conditions were great, no swell, no wind, blue sky but as Captain Aleksey and his team came closer, they had to cancel the operations due to huge amounts of ice blocking the landing site. Instead of getting ready after breakfast, we all were invited to the lounge for a unique lecture on Plankton by Chloe, Pierre and Szymon. With samples taken from the ocean just

the day before with a plankton net, Chloe put them under the microscope attached to the projection screen so everybody could see it. We were amazed by the findings. Little crabs, copepods, jellyfish, worms and more! Pierre informed us with the importance and the secret amazing life of krill. Leaving us in awe about what we just had learned about the importance of plankton, Raph announced the presence of 2 Polar bears on the beach.

We all made our way outside, with some of us not even wearing a coat due to the warm temperatures. There they were, a mother and a 2-year-old cub walking along the shoreline at



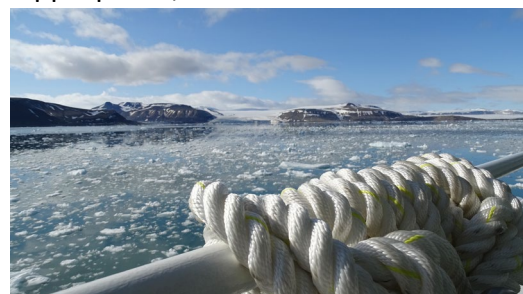
Dunerbukta. A beautiful and joyful sighting. Eventually, the bears moved up the mountain, walking out of sight for most of us.



Meanwhile, the staff lowered 13 zodiacs to take everybody who was interested on a special zodiac ice cruise. Within a very short time, all the guests got ready to embark and take off in superb conditions with their guides. Blue sky, no wind, amazing scenery with

ice bergs looking like unique sculptures drifting around us. As we cruised in between the ice, the fulmars and kittiwakes joined us over our heads. A strong current made some pieces of ice move fast and gave us a different scene wherever we drove. The fog moved in at a few places, and looking over our shoulders, the Hondius looked like a pirate ship dooming out of the clouds. Endless amount of ice pictures were taken and with these weather conditions nobody wanted to go back, but of course Michael and his team prepared a lovely lunch so we made it back in time. A great lunch as usual and how appropriate, ice cream for dessert.

No time for an after-lunch dip, as the 2nd officer Diederik made an announcement from the bridge that we had a pod of beluga's in front of the ship. Again, an amazing encounter of more than 20 individuals with younger calves who have a grey coloration, unlike the white adults.





Still looking at the beluga's, suddenly a male polar bear appeared on portside of the ship. The guest at the bow could not believe their eyes. The polar bear changed his direction and so did the captain, making way for the master of the arctic. Looking at a polar bear swimming was amazing and it got even more exciting when this majestic male decided to climb

on a piece of ice. After climbing on the ice flow, he gave his fur a good shake and dipped back in, continuing his voyage, and so did we, heading for the end of the Negribreenfjord.

Such a great afternoon needs to be celebrated, so Michael and his hotel staff invited everybody on the front deck for hot chocolate, whipped cream and an optional shot of kalua. Closing it off with a cheery group picture. The only reason to go inside on this lovely day was that we left the beautiful bay and Melissa gave a lecture on Polar bears and their reproduction, something nobody wanted to miss out on.



On this expedition we were treated with many amazing sightings of polar bears and their behavior so a "I saw a Polar Bear Happy Hour" was organized by the hotel staff, much appreciated by lots of guest.



With the sun still high in the cloudless sky, we made our way to the dining room, to have a delicious plated 3 course meal. Meanwhile, looking out into the ocean flat as a mirror, this day was one of many to embrace.

Day 9: 13th July 2019

Sailing towards Isfjord and Gjertsenodden at St. Jonsfjorden

GPS position at 0800: 77°08'.0 N, 014°01'.3 E

Wind: NNW4 Sea State: Slight Weather: rainy

Air Temp: 4 °C Sea Temp: 6 °C



In order to get back on time to Longyearbyen, we spend the morning navigating along the eastern coast of Spitzbergen.

Omblin gave us a very instructive lecture about the Arctic geopolitics and its complexity.

Later on, we could follow a series of lectures prepared by the knowledgeable expedition team. Szymon started with a talk about the glaciers in Spitsbergen and explain us how global warming is going to impact them. Then, Sara taught us how to identify whale according to their blow, their size and the shape of their dorsal fins. After what, Mellissa came up on stage with a very long rope as a visual aid to realize how big (or how small) some of the whales were! To finish, Leonard gave us some numbers about the boat: We had 144 passengers, 44



crew members, 13 officers and 13 expeditions staff. We also ate 450 eggs as well as 40 kg of veggies... a day!

In the afternoon it was time to get out of the boat and get some fresh arctic air into our lungs. The boat stopped in St. Jonsfjord, a relatively small fjord with several glacier and mountains. We made

our last landing in a place call Gjertsenodden. The horizon was foggy, the sea was calm and couple of eider ducks were swimming near the shore.



The long hikers went for a 3h walk together lead by Raphael. They enjoyed exploring the tundra and looking at flowers.

The short walkers came ashore next to a hut. The hut was built in the 1960's by Per Johnson, one of the Svalbard's last polar bear hunters. It

was named Perhytta after its builder. It was not an historical hut and it was never used for overwintering. It was very nice to have a look at the inside, there was a stove, a bed and some books on the shelf. It was also funny to have a look at the toilet next to the hut; without a door it had the view on the fjord! It must be the toilet with the best view in the world!



A bit further forms the hut, in the middle of the mud, we had the chance to spotted.... polar bears track! It was very impressive to see the size of the foot prints!

It was then time to carefully clean our boots before getting back on board.

At the end of the day Sara shared an emotional slide show where we could all remember the great moment onboard the Hondius. What a nice trip we had. Then, it was finally time for the Captain's cocktail.

Day 10: 14th July 2019

Longyearbyen

GPS position at 0800: 78°14'.61 N, 015°32'.60 E

Wind: S2 Sea State: 1 Weather: Overcast

Air Temp: 3 °C Sea Temp: 8 °C

As Hondius approached Longyearbyen last night, we knew our last hours onboard were approaching. It was time to reflect on the amazing voyage we just had, the abundant wildlife sightings, the history of the area we visited and the friendships we made on our home for the past ten days.

As the first Zodiacs left the ship at 5:45 am, the first wave of guests prepared to disembark and go straight to the airport to catch the early flight. An early bird was served in the main lounge, while full breakfast was ready at 7 am for the rest of us so we could leave Hondius, homeward bound, at 8:15 am.

This was the end of our Arctic adventure with the Oceanwide Staff and Crew, on board the unforgettable brand new MV Hondius.



**Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company,
good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future,
wherever that might be!**

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1296 nautical miles

Furthest North: 80°27'.87 N, 012°37'.45 E

**On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Alexey Nazarov,
Expedition Leader Raphaël Sané, Hotel Manager Michael Frauendorfer
and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.**



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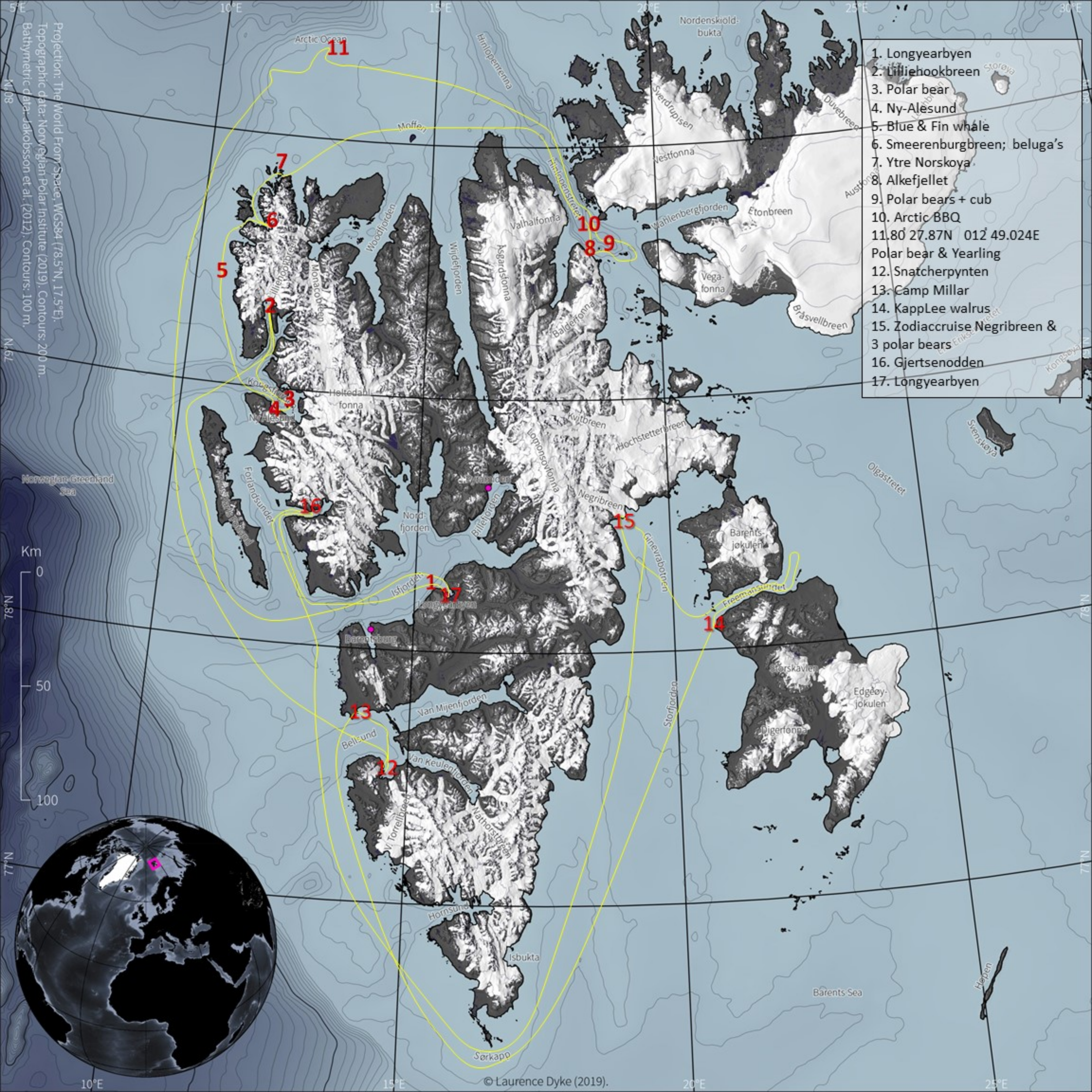
Read the terms and conditions of the contest on www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms

Birds and Mammals of Svalbard 5-14 July 2019

English Name	Latin	German	French	中文	Dutch	5-7	6-7	7-7	8-7	9-7	10-7	11-7	12-7	13-7	14-7
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	北方暴风鹱	Noordse stormvogel	x	x	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	
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Weisswangengans	Bernacle nonnette	白颊黑雁	Brandgans			x	x	x					
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eiderente	Eider commun	欧绒鸭	Eidereend			x	x	x		x	x	x	
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	王绒鸭	Konings eider			x				x	x	x	
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sandregenpfeifer	Grand Gravelot	剑鸻	Bontbekplevier			x			x				
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet	紫滨鹬	Paarse strandloper			x				x	x		x
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Odinshühnchen	Phalarope à bec étroit	红颈瓣足鹬	Grauwe franjepoot								x		
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Späteraubmöwe	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
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	长尾贼鸥	Kleinste jager		x	x							
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Skua	Grand Labbe	大贼鸥	Grote jager		x	x	x			x		x	
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	北极鸥	Grote Burgemeester		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	三趾鸥	Drieteenmeeuw	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	北极燕鸥	Noordse stern	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Trottellumme	Guillemot de Troil	崖海鸦	Zeekoet			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>Cephus grylle</i>	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	白翅斑海鸦/黑海鸦	Zwarte zeekoet	x	x	x				x	x	x	x
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Krabben-taucher	Mergule nain	小海雀	Kleine alk			x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	海鹦	Papegaaiduiker	x	x	x				x	x		
Snow bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges	雪鹀	Sneeuwgorst		x	x				x	x		

MAMMALS

English	Latin	German	French	中文	Dutch	5-7	6-7	7-7	8-7	9-7	10-7	11-7	12-7	13-7	14-7
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	x	
Ringed seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringelrobbe	Phoque marbré	环斑海豹	Ringelrob					x					
Harp seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland	格陵兰海豹	Zadelrob		x						x		
Common /Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seehund	Phoque commun	斑海豹	Gewone zeehond		x	x	x	x			x		
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal	Baleine bleue	蓝鲸	Blauwe vinvis		x								
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	长须鲸	Gewone vinvis		x								
Beluga	<i>Devinapterus leucas</i>	Weisswal	Béluga	白鲸	Beloeaga			x						x	
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Eisbär	Ours blanc	北极熊	Ijsbeer		x		x	x				x	
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Polarfuchs	Renard polaire	北极狐	Poolvos			x	x			x	x		
Spitsbergen Reindeer	<i>platyrhynchus</i>	Svalbard Renntier	Renne du Spitzberg	北极驯鹿	Rendier		x			x	x			x	x



1. Longyearbyen
2. Lilliehöökreen
3. Polar bear
4. Ny-Alesund
5. Blue & Fin whale
6. Smeerenburgreen; beluga's
7. Ytre Norskoya
8. Alkefjellet
9. Polar bears + cub
10. Arctic BBQ
11. 80° 27.87N 012° 49.024E
Polar bear & Yearling
12. Snatcherpynten
13. Camp Millar
14. KappLee walrus
15. Zodiaccruise Negribreen & 3 polar bears
16. Gjertsenodden
17. Longyearbyen



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.

Florence Kuyper - Assistant Expedition Leader



Florence is a cosmopolitan with a passion for the polar regions, remote nature, deserts, history and nomadic people around the globe. After receiving her Masters degree in Educational and Organisational Psychology in the Netherlands, Florence had a European career as a consultant-manager in the field of social affairs.

In 2004 she went for the first time to the big white desert 'Antarctica' and her passion for this continent has drawn her back 'South' ever since.

But Florence can also do extreme heat: she crossed 1,200 km of harsh Mongolian desert on foot, together with a team and her Bactrian camel. Florence lived on a British historical base on the Antarctic Peninsula "Port Lockroy" where she worked as Base Leader. She also works on sailing yachts in the Arctic and Antarctica. Florence has worked as a guide and expedition leader in both polar regions since 2012 and she looks forward to sharing her knowledge and unlimited passion for the polar regions with you.

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.

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.

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!

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

Chloé Maréchal - Expedition Guide

Chloé is a passionate diver fascinated by marine life and exploration. She earned a European master degree in Marine biodiversity and conservation and loves to share her expertise for the marine environment. In April 2013, she was selected as the 2013-14 European Rolex our world underwater scholar. She spent a year working side by side with current leaders in underwater fields, getting very different experiences in marine science and in the diving industry. Diving and science are not her only passion; she enjoys exploring new countries and discovering new cultures. She has been diving on all continents and living in more than 20 countries. Chloé now lives in northern Norway just above the polar circle. When she is not onboard, she can be found underwater: observing the ocean's inhabitants, searching for forgotten wrecks or mapping and exploring undiscovered underwater cave passages.

Leonard Dewaele - Expedition Guide



I am a paleontologist, specialising in the evolution of seals through time.

Working at this interface between biology and geology, and also oceanography and atmospheric studies, I have a good understanding of all the natural processes that are going on around us. Feel free to ask me anything about that and I'm there to answer your questions!

My love for exploring places and finding my own limits ignited at the age of 10, after hearing a family friend talk about his own adventures and his experiences with the high degree of freedom and life-changing interactions with new environments and cultures all around the globe.

When I am not travelling around the world, I work as a researcher at George Mason University in Virginia and at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., studying the skeletons of both living seal species and groups that went extinct a long time ago.

When not travelling or working as a researcher, you can find me on trails, training for my next 50 mile, 100 km, 100 mile or 200 mile trail running race.

Pierre Gallego - Expedition Guide



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!

Mariela Cornejo - Expedition Guide



Mariela was born in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and lived through the process of her own land becoming the Province of “Tierra del Fuego”. Living at “the door to Antarctica” and reading stories about Nordenskjöld and the local hero, Sobral, she couldn’t avoid dreaming about adventuring even further South.

Raised far away from the city, out in the central valley of the South Andes range, it was a given to practice all kind of winter sports. Nordic skiing, Splitboarding, Biathlon, Skijoring, Mushing and Ice skating, just to name a few. She has participated in Biathlon World championships and also took part in several international competitions, giving her the opportunity to travel around the world. During summers, she likes to do all kind of outdoor activities including camping in the mountains, hiking, paddling, kitesurfing and climbing.

Her first season in Antarctica was in 2014, and since then, the polar bug has infected her in such a way she can’t stop returning season after season. History, wildlife and geology of the polar regions grew as an interest, leading her to start planning her first season to the opposite region. Even though she used to spend winters in Ushuaia guiding snowmobile excursions through the forests of Tierra del Fuego and leading groups on snowshoeing expeditions and cross-country skiing adventures, this boreal summer she’s excited to be adventuring on her first Arctic season. Join her on a Zodiac Cruise, walk around the beach or out on deck to share some stories and look out for amazing wildlife!

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.

Szymon Niezabitowski - Expedition guide



Szymon was born in Cracow, Poland. He studied Biology and Geography in Cracow where he received his graduate degree in “Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences”. His final thesis was about Volcanic Soils on Iceland.

After he finished his studies, he joined Polish Academy of Sciences and worked for the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, where he was a guide and researcher on exotic animals.

Szymon began guiding in the Arctic in 2016 on Spitsbergen and since then has also led

Orca whale trips in North Norway.

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.

Melissa Scott - Expedition Guide



In 1987, Melissa moved to the mountains of Montana and never looked back. She completed her degree in Environmental Science Education and has dedicated her career to inspiring conservation through relevant, first-hand encounters with the natural world.

She is a dynamic and enthusiastic professional naturalist/guide with over 28 years of experience leading natural history and cultural trips around the globe. While she truly enjoys every region in which she guides, whether deserts or mountains or oceans, the arctic marine environment is probably top on her list.

The complexity and richness of this system is incomparable, supporting such iconic creatures as polar bear, arctic fox, bowhead, beluga and narwhal along with the vast abundance of seasonal migrants. So, whether exploring the arctic wilderness of Svalbard & eastern Greenland, the bamboo forests of China, the nursery lagoons of Baja's grey whales, or the wilds of the U.S. and Canada, you can be sure she is excited to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with you!

Tom Matthews - Ship Doctor



I am a general practitioner from the Netherlands. Currently working as a freelance doctor in and around Amsterdam. Born and raised in the centre of the Netherlands in a small village near Utrecht and studied medicine up north in Groningen.

Besides my daily practice i am working as a volunteer to provide medical care for homeless and illegal people in Amsterdam.

I am always looking out for adventure, also in work. These days I am setting up a practice in Amsterdam to make care better

organized for the addicted people in town.

I have a lot of experience in practicing medicine in rural areas like Nepal, Haiti and Myanmar.

The last few years I have also been active as a ship's doctor on board different vessel to north and south pole. After visiting the south pole together (see picture) my wife is now joining me up north.

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 1, July 05, 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 Raphael and hotel manager Michael will introduce you to the life on board the Hondius.
This will be followed by a mandatory 'Safety at Sea' briefing.
Presence will be checked. |
| ±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 (presence will be checked). 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 North, along the outer coast of Spitsbergen. The total distance will be around 150 nautical miles (1 nm. is around 1,9 kilometres) to reach our destination in the north-east corner of Spitsbergen.

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

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 2, July 06, Saturday Lillihookbreen and Ny Alesund

- 07.45 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). Your presence will be checked.
Please join the expedition team in the lecture room to hear the safety and environmental guidelines. You will also be introduced to the itinerary, the Expedition Team and the afternoon's activities.
- TBA* Boot distribution by deck. Please pay attention to the announcements.
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Landing at Ny Alesund. Disembarkation will be by zodiac.
14.00: HIKERS
14.10: BLUE and RED
14.20: YELLOW and GREEN
- Optional tours (meeting point at the Admunsen bust):**
15.00: Hike to the Zeppelin mountain to reach a spectacular viewpoint (5-6 km, 200-300 elevation gain, 2.5-3h, half of the walk will be on a good and flat terrain, the other half on a rocky hilly moraine with snow patches).
15.30 and 16.00: "Walk and talk" around Ny Alesund to discover the history and tundra of Ny Alesund, its flower and possibly wildlife (reindeers, birds...). Easy short walk.
- 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 will arrive in the Krossfjord. The ship will be navigating by the stunning Lilliehook glacier during breakfast. Don't miss this spectacular ship cruising!

Then we'll head to Kongsfjord and disembark at Ny Alesund. It is a small small village, settled in a very attractive scenery. It is now only occupied by scientists of all countries, but it was once the most important site in the history of the exploration of the North Pole in Svalbard and also a coal mining city. To be visited are the museum (always open and free), the shop, the post office, the Admunsen bust, the Nobile mast, the dog yard, the wildlife (reindeer and arctic fox are regular visitors, birds) and the people! This is the perfect place to introduce you to Svalbard!

*TBA = To Be Announced

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 3, July 07, Sunday Smeerenburgreen and the Raudfjord

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4), for one hour.
09.30	Zodiac cruise in the Bjorn fjord along the Smeerenburg glacier. 09.30: Disembarkation of GREEN and YELLOW 09.40: Disembarkation of RED and BLUE
12.30	Lunch
14.00	Landing at Alicehamna (Raudfjord). Disembarkation by zodiac. 14.00: HIKE 14.15: MEDIUM WALK 14.30: LEISURE WALK
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.30	Dinner

In the morning, we will arrive in the Bear fjord (or Bjornfjorden). We will zodiac cruise a beautiful glacier, Smeerenburgreen, which is not only very scenic, but also often surrounded by floating glacier ice.

Then we'll head to Raudfjord and disembark on the stony beach of Alicehamna, where you will have to choose between three possibilities:

- The long walkers will go for a 3 to 4h round-trip around 6 km-long with an estimated 300-350m elevation gain, on a quite good terrain except few boulders, boggy areas and snow patches.
- The medium walkers will go for a 2 to 3h round-trip around 4 km-long with an estimated 100m elevation gain, on a pretty good terrain except few boulders, boggy areas and snow patches.
- The short walkers will go for a leisure walk from a hut to a small hill (55m high, less than 2 km in total), on a good ground.

All options provide nice views over the fjord and the mountain ranges around. Reindeer is possible.

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 4, July 08, Monday Northern Spitsbergen & Alkefjellet

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4), for one hour.
09.30	Navigation in North-East Spitsbergen
12.30	Lunch
14.00 – 16.30	Zodiac cruising at Alkefjellet 14.00: BLUE and RED 14.15: YELLOW and GREEN
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.00	Special Arctic Dinner

This morning, we are traveling along the north-eastern coast of the Svalbard archipelago, looking for coastal sea ice where Polar Bears could be roaming. The expedition team will do bear watch all the morning but feel free to join them and give a hand!

On the afternoon, we will have a zodiac cruising along one of the most impressive bird cliff colony of the Northern hemisphere. This cliff, 2km long and 100m high, hosts tens of thousands of seabirds, mainly Brunnich's Guillemots, but also Kittiwakes, Black Guillemots, Glaucous Gull... The Arctic Fox is often seen sneaking around in hope of a good meal... and the Polar Bear too! It is an impressive show best seen from zodiacs and not to be missed!

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

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 3, July 07, Sunday Smeerenburgreen and the Raudfjord

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4), for one hour.
09.30	Zodiac cruise in the Bjorn fjord along the Smeerenburg glacier. 09.30: Disembarkation of GREEN and YELLOW 09.40: Disembarkation of RED and BLUE
12.30	Lunch
14.00	Landing at Alicehamna (Raudfjord). Disembarkation by zodiac. 14.00: HIKE 14.15: MEDIUM WALK 14.30: LEISURE WALK
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.30	Dinner

In the morning, we will arrive in the Bear fjord (or Bjornfjorden). We will zodiac cruise a beautiful glacier, Smeerenburgreen, which is not only very scenic, but also often surrounded by floating glacier ice.

Then we'll head to Raudfjord and disembark on the stony beach of Alicehamna, where you will have to choose between three possibilities:

- The long walkers will go for a 3 to 4h round-trip around 6 km-long with an estimated 300-350m elevation gain, on a quite good terrain except few boulders, boggy areas and snow patches.
- The medium walkers will go for a 2 to 3h round-trip around 4 km-long with an estimated 100m elevation gain, on a pretty good terrain except few boulders, boggy areas and snow patches.
- The short walkers will go for a leisure walk from a hut to a small hill (55m high, less than 2 km in total), on a good ground.

All options provide nice views over the fjord and the mountain ranges around. Reindeer is possible.

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 6, July 10, Wednesday To Bellsund

07.00	Wake-up call
07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
09.00 – 12.00	Landing at Snatcherpynten in Recherchefjord Disembarkation by zodiac 09.00 LONG hikers 09.30 MEDIUM walkers 09.40 LEISURE walkers
12.30	Lunch
14.45 – 18.00	Landing Ingeborgfjellet or Camp Millar in Varsolbukta Disembarkation by zodiac 14.45 LONG hikers 15.15 MEDIUM walkers 15.25 LEISURE walkers
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.0	Dinner

In the morning, we arrive in Snatcherpynten, where 3 options are possible according to your capabilities and personal interest. All options offer nice tundra, history and possibly reindeer.

The **long walkers** will go for an approx. 3h-long hike with an estimated 100-150m elevation gain over 5-6 km. Most of the walk will take place on a rocky moraine, the rest being in a nice tundra (swampy area possible). The **medium walkers** will go for a 2-2.5h walk with an estimated 50 to 100m elevation gain over 3km. A little part of the walk will take place on a rocky moraine, the rest being in a nice tundra (swampy area possible). Both walks offer nice views over the Renard Glacier. The **leisure group** will walk around to discover a weird hut, nice tundra, flowers, history...

In the afternoon we arrive in Varsolbukta, where 3 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 hike with an estimated 100-150m elevation gain over 5-6 km. The **medium walkers** will go for a 2-2.5h walk with an estimated 50 to 100m elevation gain over 3km. Both walks are on a good terrain with boggy areas with a steep slope to reach a Little Auk colony. The **leisure group** will walk around to discover nice tundra, flowers, reindeers, history...

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 7, July 11, Thursday To Kapp Lee

07.45	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
09.30 – 10.30	Lecture “Willem Barentsz: the discoverer of Spitsbergen” by Florence in the Lecture room (Deck 5)
11.00 – 12.00	Special long recap given by your expedition team in the Lounge
12.30	Lunch
14.00 – 18.00	Landing at Kapp Lee (or Dolerittneset) Disembarkation by zodiac 14.00 LONG hikers 14.15 MEDIUM walkers 15.00 LEISURE walkers
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.00	Dinner

On the morning, we will be navigating. Don't miss the lectures given by your guides!

On the afternoon, 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.

At Kapp Lee, 3 options are possible according to your capabilities and personal interest. All options offer nice tundra, history, possibly reindeer and walruses.

The **long walkers** will go for an approx. 3-4h-long hike with an estimated 350m elevation gain over 8km to reach a spectacular viewpoint (weather permitting). It is a very demanding walk only for regular hikers. The **medium walkers** will go for a 2h walk with an estimated 100m elevation gain over 3km. Both walks will take place on good ground with some muddy parts. The **leisure group** will walk around to see the walruses, the reindeers, the Pomor remains, the huts...

On the evening, we will sail through the Fremansundet, a narrow channel between Edge and Barents Island. On the eastern end of this passage, sea ice is still present and we will watch for bear.

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 8, July 12, Friday Diskobukta and Negribreen

07.30	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
09.30 – 12.00	Disembarkation at Diskobukta 09.30: Hikers 10.00: Medium walkers 10.10: Short walkers
12.30	Lunch
Afternoon	Towards the Negribreen, in search of the Polar Bear
18.30	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
19.00	Dinner

On the morning, we plan to disembark at Diskobukta. Well-known wildlife sites include a Kittiwake-colony in a canyon (6,000 pairs!), providing Arctic Foxes with food and lucky visitors with a great experience!

It is a hard place to get to, due to exposed shoreline and shallow water. That's why the ship will approach the site at 07.00 and expedition team will assess the conditions. If all ok, then we will carry out a landing with the first departure at 09.30 for the hikers and 10.00 for the rest of the passengers. Due to the distance from the ship to the shore (around 5km), a 15mn-long shuttle is to be expected.

Once ashore, the **hikers** will go for a 4km, 2h and 150m-high walk on good ground. They will see the Kittiwake colony first from above and then from inside the canyon.

The **medium walkers** will go for a 3 to 4km, 2h and 50m-high walk on good ground. They will see the colony from inside the canyon and will do a small loop in the tundra.

The **short walkers** will go to the entrance of the canyon and back: it is a 1.3km, 1h to 1h30-long and 25m-high walk on a good ground.

On the afternoon, we will sail towards Negribreen, a massive glacier 11 km wide located on the eastern coast of Spitsbergen. 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...

Any activity such as bear observation, ship cruising along the glacier or zodiac operation will be announced through the PA system.

Around Spitsbergen

July 05 - 14, 2019

Day 9, July 13, Saturday Isfjord

07.45	Wake-up call
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast buffet in the dining room (Deck 4)
09.30 – 10.30	Lecture about “Geopolitics of the Arctic” by Omblin in the Lecture Room (Deck 5)
11.00 – 12.00	Recap & briefing by your expedition team
12.30	Lunch
Afternoon	Landing in the Isfjord. The details of the operation will be given during the morning’s briefing
14.00 – 22.00	Settlement of your account at reception (Deck 4)
18.45	The slideshow of your cruise will be displayed on the screens in the Lounge and available for you to take home after Dinner This will be followed by the Captain’s farewell cocktail with the Captain and your expedition team in the Lounge (deck 5)
19.30	Dinner in the dining room (Deck 4)

On the morning, we will be navigating along the eastern coast of Spitsbergen. Don’t miss the lectures and recaps given by your guides!

On the afternoon, a landing will be organised in the Isfjord. The exact destination will depend on our speed, which might be affected by drifting ice on our way during the night. Consequently, all details regarding the afternoon’s activities will be given during the morning’s briefing.

On the evening, don’t miss the Captain’s farewell cocktail with your Captain and your expedition team! A slideshow of the best moments of your cruise will be displayed at the beginning of the cocktail.

In Search of Polar Bear and Pack Ice Special

June 28 – July 05, 2019

Day 10, July 14, Sunday Longyearbyen

- 05.15 Passengers of the 07.45 flight put your heavy luggage in the corridor near your cabin at the latest at 05.00
- 05.15 Croissants and juices are served in the lounge
- 05.45 Disembarkation of the passengers for the 07.45 flight
- 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.

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 **14.45 flight** the bus will pick you up at the drop-off place at the Butikken at 12.45 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!